

Refugees from cholera epidemic

Portfolio £42,000 to be won

There is £42,000 available to be won in the Times Portfolio competition today. Because last week's £20,000 prize was not won, that is added to this week's £20,000. To this total of £40,000 is added today's daily prize of £2,000.

Yesterday's prize was shared by five winners, each of whom received £400. They were Mr Clive Siddall, of Polmont, Stirlingshire and Dr G. Maccubbin, of London. Portfolio list, page 20; prize changes, information service, back page.

Pledge to blacks by Botha

President Botha of South Africa yesterday promised new political structures and property rights to allow the country's black majority to decide on their own affairs up to the highest level.

Welcomed by white liberals and coloured and Indian representatives in Parliament, the moves were dismissed by extra-parliamentary opposition groups.

Murder charge

A youth aged 16 was remanded in custody of a week when he appeared before magistrates at Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh, yesterday, charged with murdering a member of the Ulster Defence Regiment four years ago.

Emergency date

France has extended the state of emergency in New Caledonia where 23 people have died in clashes over independence plans until June 30.

Siege goes on

Armed police last night continued to lay siege to a house in Stutheim where a man wanted for questioning about the shooting of the police dog Verba is defying appeals to come out.

Agent in tears

One of the Polish secret police agents accused of murdering a solidarity priest wept in court when a film was shown of the body being pulled from a reservoir.

Savings issue

The thirtieth issue National Savings certificate, announced yesterday, will challenge new building society deposit rates with a tax-free 8.85 per cent return after five years.

Vienna outcry

Austrian politicians are demanding the resignation of the Defence Minister, who met the Nazi war criminal Walter Roder when he arrived in Graz from Italy.

Water pressure

The Government is to insist that water authorities make substantial increases in their rate demands, in spite of a court action threat by the Thames authority.

Budget threat

Anyone thinking of taking out a personal pension plan should act before March 19 when the Budget may abolish some of the pension funds' tax privileges.

Sidon wait

Lebanon's muslim militias are waiting patiently to advance on the road to Sidon as Israel's Christian allies withdraw.

C5 hitch

A decision on starting a third production line for the Sinclair C5 electric car has been delayed because of industrial action.

Pay dispute

Council manual workers are to consider industrial action after rejecting a 4.75 per cent pay offer worth £3.70 per week.

Budd's victory

Zola Budd, competing in Britain for the first time since the Los Angeles Olympics, won a 1,500 metres heat in the WAAA championships last night.

Letters: On televising the Lords, from Capt P. R. D. Kimm, and others; homeless in London from Mr I. Harrington. Leading articles: Public section pay; the Pope's visit to Latin America; penance. Obituary, page 10. Dr George Katkov, Beno Blacut.

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NUM and coal board agree on 'talks about talks'

By Paul Routledge and Peter Davenport

The miners and the National Coal Board are to have fresh 'talks about talks' early next week aimed at a swift settlement of the 46-week old pit strike.

After a discreet exchange of views between the parties yesterday, negotiations are to resume on a trial basis initially. The NCB appears to have quietly sidestepped a Government requirement that there should be a written commitment in advance of the talks that the miners will accept the closure of pits on economic grounds.

National officials of the National Union of Mineworkers will meet their opposite numbers at the coal board next Tuesday, and Mr Michael Eaton, chief spokesman of the NCB, last night made it clear that he expects the union to signal a shift of policy that will permit a full-scale reopening of talks involving the full NCB executive.

The Tuesday talks will establish whether the union will make the 'historic compromise' required by the board, but all the signs emanating from the NCB are that it will accept a new regime in the industry with the best grace that it can muster.

One person not involved in Tuesday's talks is Mr Ned Smith, the NCB's industrial relations director who has been disgraced according to colleagues.

Mr Smith was the man who laid the basis for a renewal of the peace process during secret 'talks about talks' with the NUM five days ago, but his

contribution is regarded within the NCB as controversial although the minutes of the meeting established for the first time that the union would be prepared to talk about the closure of uneconomic pits.

Another 190 miners abandoned the dispute yesterday, adding fresh pressure to the union leadership. The coal board made clear at an informal press conference in Yorkshire that unless the union accepted in advance that pits would have to close on economic grounds, the discussions would not go ahead. But Mr Eaton was 'absolutely sure' that the miners' leaders knew what issues would be on the Tuesday's agenda, and once that agenda was established full negotiations could take place 'very soon afterwards'.

Further unhappiness with the coal board's demand that the NUM should accept in advance that pits must close on economic grounds was voiced by the pit deputies' union leaders, the leaders of which last night urged the coal board to respond positively to the miners' proposal for fresh talks.

Mr Peter McNestry, the union's general secretary, said that his organization would never accede to such demands and insisted that Mrs Margaret Thatcher had been 'after' the NUM from day one 'it has become a political strike. It is clear now that she is involved in running the coal board's business.'

'She countermanded an arrangement between senior director Ned Smith and the

NUM. She has total involvement and she is out to destroy the NUM.'

There were varying assessments of the NUM's position yesterday, and Mr Michael McGahey, vice-president, insisted that it would not give a written guarantee to discuss closures. He told a rally in Glasgow that the NUM was willing to go into talks without pre-conditions, and he hoped that a principled settlement would emerge.

But neither the Prime Minister nor anyone else could demand that the union committed itself before entering negotiations. 'This Government is alienating itself from the people with its demand for blood. They are not having the blood of the miners with 80 per cent of our members still on strike.'

His comments came after NUM leaders had given the go-ahead for peace talks, and South Wales miners, who have been the strongest bastion of the strike, indicated to their leaders that they wanted a swift settlement and an orderly return to work.

Confirmation of Tuesday's talks finally came at 3pm when Mr Eaton held an informal press conference at the headquarters of the North Yorkshire area of the NCB, at Alerton Bywater.

He had spent the morning in meetings with Mr Ian MacGregor, board chairman, Mr James Cowans, his deputy, who had spent a second day touring area headquarters in the Yorkshire coalfield. The two senior NCB



Talking about talks: Mr Michael McGahey (top) addressing a Glasgow rally yesterday and Mr Ian MacGregor leaving an NCB meeting in Yorkshire.

Howe defends Tory record on jobs as second to none

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Success for the Government's economic policies would require a national effort and the enlarging of common ground, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday.

He said the Conservatives were well aware of the need for the greater degree of national unity and he warned his party that it must maintain its cohesion.

It would be unwise to suppose that the divisions of the left would lead to an effortless Conservative victory at the next election.

In a wide-ranging speech to the Cambridge University Conservative Association, Sir Geoffrey set out to repudiate the fix-charge charges of the Government's opponents; that it was rigidly ideological, favoured the rich against the poor and welcomed conflict.

The first charge he found astonishing. The Conservative record, he said, showed 'an essentially pragmatic approach' towards industrial support and employment legislation, where they had sometimes moved more carefully than some had wished.

'We do not believe in absolutes about economic policy,' he said.

Concern for the weak and poor was shown by the Govern-

ment's 'massive effort' on publicly financed employment measures, which was second to none in Europe. Socialist governments had refused to raise public sector wages in France and had doubled prescription charges in Italy.

To tax at 40 per cent those on one-third of average earnings was intolerable, but public expenditure had to be controlled if tax thresholds were to be raised.

Sir Geoffrey said the Government could not be content until unemployment came down and stayed down. Tackling its scourge remained the Government's most important problem. 'We do not think sound money more important than full employment,' he said. 'We know that you cannot have the second without the first.'

On the 'new common ground' which Sir Geoffrey said must be consolidated, 'a post-nationalization, post-graduate monopoly era' where such words and ideas as entrepreneur, profit, productivity and ownership were now accepted, and where privatization and the supremacy of Parliament over trade unions no longer had to be justified.

Collectivists now had to do battle on that ground. But in the second phase, the Government had to press on with the 'liberation' of the economy if jobs were to be created more quickly.

The mainspring of our economic recovery must come from the actions of ordinary people... What we in government can do is to remove the fiscal and regulatory burdens of the state which impede their efforts, fosterize outdated patterns of activity and put a premium on intransigence.



Sir Geoffrey Howe: National unity

Sterling falls again in worry over oil

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The pound fell to new lows yesterday, as markets reacted to the run-up to Monday's meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Despite news of record exports in December, the sterling index slipped 0.1 to a new closing low of 70.6, the pound losing 38 points to \$1.1132 against the dollar a more than half a penny to DM3.5240 against the mark.

Later in New York, the pound was down to \$1.1080 and DM3.51.

That pressure added to concern over interest rates. The three-month interbank rate rose 12 to 12.125, up by one day, and well above the 12 per cent base rate charged by the high street banks.

The trade figures showed a current account surplus of £193 million in December, and record exports of £6,701 million.

For 1984 as a whole, the current account was in the black by £196 million, down from 1983's £2,294 million surplus but better than the Treasury expected at the time of its autumn statement in November, when it forecast zero current account balance.

The miners' strike, which increased oil and coal imports and reduced coal exports, cost

US to make aid depend on reforms

From Bailey Morris Washington

The Reagan Administration is preparing to inject an important new emphasis on economics into US foreign policy during the President's second term, insisting on internal reforms before it dispenses foreign aid to some countries, officials said.

For example, runaway inflation in Iraq and mounting unemployment in Europe will be linked to foreign aid and Nato discussions.

Mr Donald Regan, at present the Treasury Secretary, is planning key personnel changes which will reflect the new strategy when he moves to the White House as Chief of Staff next month.

The Treasury is likely to adopt a different tone and strategy under Mr James Baker, the current White House Chief of Staff, who is expected to be confirmed next week by the full Senate as Treasury Secretary.

Mr Baker made clear in his confirmation hearings this week that both he and President Reagan plan to emphasize tax reform as the Administration's top economic priority.

The emphasis on economic foreign policy was also outlined by Richard Lugar, the new chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee in an interview with The Times.

Mr Lugar, who is seeking to build a 'national consensus' on US foreign policy goals, beginning next week with a comprehensive set of public hearings, said economic concerns must be linked to political and security deliberations with America's allies.

Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, introduced a similar security-economic link into the annual bilateral talks between the US and the European Community.

The Reagan Cabinet had been considering a second term programme to teach Europeans how to overcome their economic problems using the American recovery as a model even before Mr Reagan was named to his new job, officials said.

Pope summons bishops to study Vatican 2

Rome (AP) - The Pope announced that he is calling an extraordinary worldwide bishops synod to re-examine the changes made by the Second Vatican Council 'in the light of new demands'.

It would meet in Rome from November 25 to December 8, he said. The synod would aid the church 'on the road to the third millennium of history'.

The Pope's unexpected announcement was made during a Mass in the Basilica of St Paul's Outside the Walls.

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Reagan uses Iran link to back Contras

President Reagan is using the presence in Nicaragua of Mir Hussein Moussavi, the Prime Minister of Iran, to support his case for a resumption of covert aid to anti-Sandinista rebels, (Nicholas Ashford writes from Washington)

The President said Iranian support for the Sandinistas posed a new danger in Central America.

Although Mr Moussavi is said to be discussing a possible oil deal, US sources claim he may be discussing arms shipments to the Sandinistas.

Britain and China agree to space technology links

By John Lawless

Britain is to exchange information on space technology with China. An agreement, which will include exchanges of space scientists, is to be signed in London on Monday by Mr Li Xia, China's first deputy minister for astronautics and space.

The agreement, in the form of a memorandum of understanding, will be followed a week later by another with France. It is part of a European attempt to encourage a full involvement in China's fast-growing space and satellite industry.

A nine-strong Chinese party visiting Europe is to go on to

French Guiana to see a launch on February 8 or 10, which is Europe's competitor to the United States space shuttle in the multi-billion dollar business of placing satellites in orbit.

China has launched about 17 satellites. The suggestion that a possible space programme should be formalized was made by the Chinese last July, during exchange visits between British manufacturing companies led by senior officials from the Department of Trade and Industry, and Chinese scientists.

The signing comes at a time when the western leaders in commercial space development

are trying to decide whether to work together, or to compete.

The 11 member governments of the European Space Agency are to meet later this month to discuss whether they should cooperate more closely with the United States. France is demanding that an independent line be pursued, but West Germany has already committed funds to an US project.

The Europeans know that Japan is also a force to be increasingly reckoned with, and have been watching the growth of the infant Chinese space industry with admiration.

Mr Michael Freeman, marketing manager of Marconi Space Systems, whose factory

in Havant, Hampshire, will be visited by the Chinese delegation during an extremely busy week in Britain, said yesterday: 'One should not underestimate the Chinese. Using their own national launch vehicle, Long March III, they have put their first geo-stationary satellite into orbit.'

In the long-term, he adds, it would be perfectly feasible to see China competing in space with Europe, the US and Japan.

The French and West Germans have recently been trying to sell satellites to China for a national transmission system, capable of overcoming

its mountainous terrain and huge areas. It has become clear to British manufacturers that the Chinese are keen to license certain bits of existing space technology, and to possibly move to joint development.

They are keen, for example, to acquire expertise in 'composite materials processing', using carbon fibres to produce extremely tough, but very light, space payloads. They also want to know about attitude and orbital control techniques which, by using Sun, Earth or star sensors, allow satellites to be precisely positioned.

There is also the possibility that Europe can learn from the Chinese.

Ethiopia cholera results delayed

From Paul Valley Addis Ababa

Results of the tests to establish whether cholera is the cause of the diarrhoea which is claiming hundreds of lives in the refugee camps of Ethiopia have still not been published here.

The World Health Organization expected them two days ago but last night a Health Ministry spokesman said no statement would be issued 'for two or three days'.

Western doctors in the camps and in relief agency headquarters maintain the disease is cholera. A laboratory technician from the French agency, Medecins sans Frontieres, made microscopic tests in the field and said the germ responsible was almost certainly cholera.

The only way to establish conclusive proof is by tests on cultures grown from specimens of contaminated water and the faeces of victims. The analysis is difficult and it is possible for tests to be negative even when cholera is responsible. It is understood that specimens from Harbo and other camps have been sent to Nairobi for further examination.

GENEVA: The World Health Organization said it was 'still awaiting official information' from Addis Ababa on 'this outbreak of illness' (Alan McGregor writes).

There are many examples of countries, particularly those with tourism aspirations, asserting that outbreaks of cholera are no more than violent diarrhoea and vomiting. Despite laboratory confirmation, some never admit it.

LONDON: A further £5 million of British aid for victims of famine in Africa and refugee relief was announced yesterday by Mr Timothy Raison, the Minister for Overseas Development.

In reply to a written parliamentary question from Mr Robert Key, MP for Salisbury, Mr Raison said: 'I have decided to give £1 million to the 1985 Africa appeal of the League of Red Cross and Crescent Societies; £1 million to the Africa emergency appeal of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, for use in Sudan; £1 million to the High Commissioner's 1985 programme for Afghan refugees in Pakistan; and £2 million to the 1985 Africa general appeal of the International Committee of the Red Cross, to continue its work in Ethiopia.'

This latest allocation is in response to appeals from the international relief agencies. Britain's contributions will be made in the current financial year 1984/5 from the overseas aid budget.

This brings the total government allocations of emergency aid for disaster and refugee relief from the overseas aid budget to about £47 million since April 1984.

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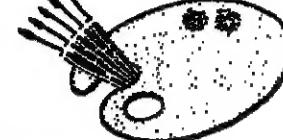
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100 Best ever

Good design from jeans to razors at the V&A

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Flesh tones

At Renoir's first exhibition for 30 years, the female form predominates

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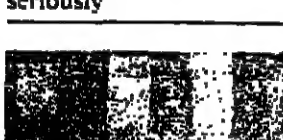
MONDAY



Women at work

How men at the top are taking them more seriously

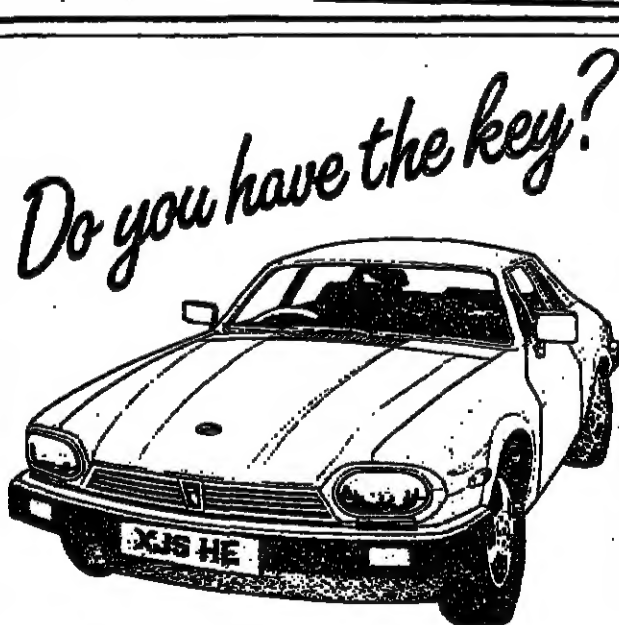
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War of nerves

What will be the results of stress and division when the coal strike ends

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Private nursing home for the elderly to be de-registered in test case

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Blackpool health authority is de-registering a private nursing home that has received more than £50,000 of public money in the past year to care for elderly patients, after allegations of squalor and neglect at the home by former staff.

The decision is likely to provide the first test case of new nursing home regulations which came into effect on January 1. These give health authorities the power to take the name of owners and managers whose registration is cancelled to a new national "blacklist", and create a new system of appeals against health authority decisions in such cases.

The Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde health authority has served notice of intention to de-register on Mr Eric Anslow, owner of the Inglehurst Nursing Home, declaring he is not a fit person to run the home, which charges £145 per week for care of excessive drinking and for failing to provide adequate heating or laundry facilities, failing to control the administration of drugs properly, check on staff references or run proper fire drills.

Mr Anslow's solicitor, Mr Geoffrey Ormrod, said yesterday that he would be making representations to the health authority to change its decision and would appeal to the newly created nursing homes appeal tribunal if the authority stood by its decision.

The authority said that in the face of "extremely conflicting evidence" from the present and former staff, relatives, neighbours and visitors, "no substantial medical evidence" of neglect had been provided and Mr Ormrod said legal action was being taken against those who had made the allegations.

Nevertheless the authority said that Mr Anslow, who has owned the home since 1977, failed to carry out his obligations under the Nursing Homes Act.

The authority said its policy had been to persuade and encourage private nursing home owners to meet the necessary standards. "In some cases this has taken an inordinate length of time and certain proprietors appear to have taken advantage of the authority's patient approach," improvements sought at the Inglehurst home since 1982 had only been "substantially completed" after a clear ultimatum last August.

Mr John Patten, Under Secretary of State for Health,

asked the Blackpool health authority to carry out an inquiry in October after representations from Ms Harriet Harman, Labour's social services spokeswoman. He revealed then that the home had received in the region of £50,000 during the past year in supplementary benefit payments to care for 17 people in the home.

Ms Harman said yesterday: "This case shows very vividly the dangers of frail and vulnerable people being looked after by private businesses and that the regulations simply are not tight enough. This would never have come to light except for a vigorous campaign in the local paper and because the case was taken up with the minister."

"Frail and elderly people should be cared for by the health or local authority and not by private businesses because, no matter how tight the regulations and inspection, there will inevitably be problems."

Blackpool health authority said yesterday it was still considering what arrangements to make for the 10 residents of the home if its decision to de-register it stood.

Mr Ormrod said legal action was being taken against those who had made the allegations.

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Food for thought: Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, tucking into pizza and baked beans with pupils during a visit to Oxstall School, in Gloucester, yesterday. He met the dinner assistants who had just learned their jobs are to go as part of a £1 million economy drive by the county council. Mr Kinnock cut a cake and Mrs Jan Bubb, canteen supervisor, said: "I hope this will be the last cut of 1985."

Screen puts pupils in computer touch

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

All schools are being offered a new piece of computer equipment which enables pupils who cannot read or use a keyboard to use a microcomputer simply by touching the screen.

The new touch screens are aimed at the primary and special schools. They fit on the front of any monitor and sell for £210, plus VAT, a fraction of the cost of other touch screens available.

Developed by the government-backed Microelectronics Education Programme, the new screens are manufactured by Microvision. Mr Robert Dunn, Under Secretary of State for Education, says the screens can widen the scope for using a micro to include the very youngest child, as well as those

who are, for example, disabled.

The manufacturers say that for an increasing number of people touch screens are replacing conventional keyboards as a means of communicating with computers, because touching the screen is the most natural way of controlling the computer and needs no training or typing skills.

One of the unusual things about this touch screen is that it contains its own computer and can recognise shapes. Thus, if a primary school class is doing geometry, it can draw in a triangle shape and activate a program about a triangle.

Private education saved the state, in cash terms, £310 million a year, Lord Hailsham of Saint Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, said last night. But

the contribution of the fee-paying sector went beyond money, academic standards and educational values, there was a real value in independence itself, and in choice.

Lord Hailsham, who was addressing the centenary dinner in London of Roedean School, described himself as a convinced supporter of boarding schools. A free society depended on a pluralistic society, which depended on a pluralistic education system.

The fact was that every year the independent sector saved the state in the form of the Exchequer and the rates a very great deal of money. Every place in the state secondary system cost nearly £1,000 a year, and with 341,000 independent places, it meant sav-

ings in public funds of £310 million a year.

Lord Hailsham said that the contribution Roedean had made to female education had been part of a revolution that had changed the position of women in national life.

Lord Young of Graffham, Minister without Portfolio who has a special interest in employment and training said yesterday that the education service and society had failed to prepare young people for the world of work.

He told the Society of Education Officers conference in London that Britain was behind Germany, America and Japan in recognizing the clear link between investment in education and training, and a competitive economy.

Community policing criticized

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

Community policing was criticized in a Home Office report yesterday as inadequately thought through. Officers spend too much time on the beat and seldom talk to the public when on patrol.

Constables generally opt not to work in the late evening or at night. Yet incidents reach their peak between 10 pm and midnight, the research and planning unit study says.

General duties such as attendance at court or report writing, and time spent withdrawn from the beat to go on prison escorts or other duties, accounted for more than 50 per cent of the working day.

"Many officers outside of community policing undervalued the work or even regarded it with a measure of contempt," Nearly 90 per cent of constables interviewed believed that, in general, the police service held their work in low regard. Community constables were among the first officers to be withdrawn when manpower was short.

A third of the constables surveyed reported poor contact with the C.I.D. "The feeling was that detectives were often unaware of the value of community constables as a source of information, or were unwilling to elicit information."

Frequent breaking of continuity in particular beats by constables needing to move for career reasons was particularly damaging, the report said.

But officers did have contact with the public, while doing community involvement work, which did not entail enforcing the law. Patrol work may have helped to make people feel more secure.

A foreword to the report says that, since the study was completed, many forces, including some who took part, have introduced reforms to deal with some of the problems described.

Community Constables: a study of Policing Initiative by David Brown and Susan Iles.

UDR man gets life for Sinn Fein death

Geoffrey Edwards, aged 26, a full-time member of the Ulster Defence Regiment, was yesterday sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of a Sinn Fein member in Armagh more than two years ago.

Edwards, who was a member of the regiment for seven years while stationed at Drumcadd Barracks, Armagh, admitted killing Peter Corrigan, aged 47, a father of 11 children, who was shot dead in October 1982, while on his way to the labour exchange. Edwards also pleaded guilty at Belfast Crown Court to 18 other charges, including six attempted murders. He was also

given seven concurrent 20-year sentences for attempted murder and causing an explosion.

In two of the incidents, Edwards had fired at pedestrians from a passing car. In another, shots were fired at the intended victim at his home, and in the fourth two men and a child were seriously injured in a booby-trap car explosion.

One of his intended victims was Seamus Grew, an IRA man, who escaped unharmed when gunmen opened fire at his home in September 1982. He was shot dead by police three months later on the outskirts of Armagh.

Minister backs father who shot intruder

A man shot and killed an intruder in his home in Dublin yesterday. A file on the incident will be sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The man fired a shot from his shotgun when he confronted two masked intruders at 3.30 am. Last night, the incident sparked off a debate about just how far householders can go in trying to protect their property.

Mr Jim Mitchell, Minister for Communications, backed the man's action. Asked if he condoned what the man had done, he said: "Of course I do. I think it is a very natural thing for someone to want to defend themselves, their home and family."

A former Justice Minister, Mr Mitchell said he was not surprised by what had happened. I was, he said, "inevitable given the upsurge in crime."

John Sweeney, a part-time

lay magistrate, who lives nearby, said: "If he was attacked with iron bars he was justified in using a gun. A man has a right to defend his home and family."

Det Insp Patrick Walsh said at the scene: "We have no evidence to suggest this was anything other than a straightforward burglary attempt." He added that the motive behind the shooting was "purely to scare and not to cause injury."

After the shooting, the wounded man was dragged by his colleague from the household to the road about 100 yards away.

Then the second man pounded on the door of a neighbouring house and pleaded with the owner to call help for his dying partner.

The family's reports that this was the third attempted robbery at the home in Ballyfermot in seven weeks were confirmed by the police.

Fire deaths case

Brian Roger Clarke, aged 24, a building supervisor of Claremont Street, Easton, Bristol, was remanded in custody until February 2 at Bristol Magistrates Court yesterday, charged with the manslaughter of three young men who died in a fire at a bedsitter.

Garden retrial

A judge ordered a retrial on Thursday for Michael Joyce, aged 26, accused of charging Miss Millicent Powell, aged 64, £11,350 for tidying her garden, when the cost was £624. The Oxford Crown Court jury was discharged after failing to reach a verdict.

Petrol-card firm's £3m debt

By Our Motoring Correspondent

A credit card scheme launched by the garage trade to help prevent employees of companies adding cigarettes and chocolate to their petrol bills, has run into trouble with debts of more than £3 million.

About 300 garages are understood to be owed £2 million for petrol sold to holders of the Motor Agents Association's fuel card.

A new company, Charge Card Services, was floated last February in partnership with two private companies, Avon Administration Services, run by a former managing director of the All Star Petrol Company, and Datema, a Bristol-based computer services company. It was an immediate success.

Yesterday, Mr Philip Stein, of the MAA, said: "If anything we were too successful and our success attracted a lot of other competitors, including some of the big oil companies. But our troubles really began when we accepted existing credit card customers from garages and found ourselves lumbered with a lot of bad debts."

On Tuesday, the Overdrive Credit Card Company, an affiliate of Wells Fargo Bank, acquired the MAA scheme but will not accept responsibility for debts prior to that date.

Sponsors sought for jet lag pill

Researchers at Surrey University are looking for sponsors for an experiment to test a pill to minimize jet lag.

The key to combating jet lag is in the hormone, melatonin, which changes the time when people become tired, Professor Vincent Marks said.

Specific ways to measure jet lag, the lack of synchronization between a person's biological clock and chronological clock, existed, he said.

Melatonin was identified by Dr Josephine Arendt who is helping Professor Marks set up the experiment to send volunteers across several time-zones, monitoring their physical and emotional reactions.

Experiments show that it takes one to three weeks to adjust to a 12-hour time-zone shift, and that the effects are physical and emotional.

While refusing to describe melatonin treatment as the definitive cure for jet lag, Professor Marks said that the research team used melatonin and not suffered from normal jet lag.

One airline has shown interest in the project, Professor Marks said. He hopes that travel companies, hotel chains, and businesses will offer sponsorship.

About £20,000 is needed to be covered.

Prestwick airline rejected

By Our Transport Editor

Plans to start a cut-price airline from Prestwick to New York have been rejected by the Civil Aviation Authority on financial grounds.

Proposals by the Scottish-based Highland Express airline to run leased 330-seat Tristars from Holland, Stansted, Birmingham and Prestwick to New York and Toronto at £115 one way were "imaginative and innovative," the authority said and would have helped Scotland's ailing international airport. But it was not satisfied the

financial arrangements were adequate.

Mr Randolph Fields, the American lawyer who launched Virgin Atlantic and who is behind the Prestwick scheme, promptly said he would try again shortly. "We hope to have a licence in a week or two."

Mr Fields encountered investment difficulties with Virgin, and overcame them only when Mr Richard Branson came in as president and chief shareholder. Mr Fields remains a 20 per cent shareholder in Virgin.

Grant loss brings new crisis for arts centre

By Kenneth Gosling

A new crisis faced the Riverside Studios at Hammer-smith, west London, last night with the announcement by the Arts Council of the withdrawal of its grant.

The board of the Riverside Trust met yesterday and a statement is expected on Monday. Arts Council funding will stop from the end of March. The present grant is £103,500. And since it opened as an arts centre in 1976 Riverside has received a total of £505,525.

A year ago a plan was

launched to save the studios, which went into liquidation in November 1982. It involved the Arts Council, the local authority, and the Greater London Council.

The Arts Council, in a statement said it was notified 10 days ago that there was no possibility the trust could meet the conditions of the council's present grant: to balance its income and expenditure. The trust was warned last March that it would have its subsidy withdrawn if it failed to operate within available resources.

Morecambe's £452,000

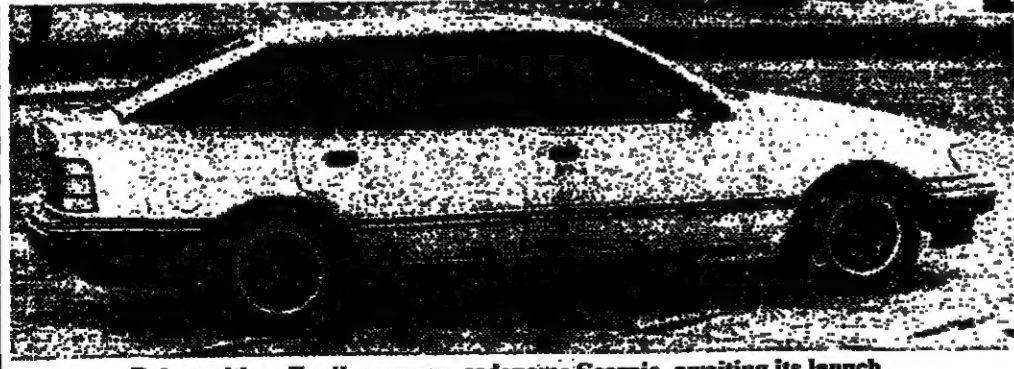
Eric Morecambe, the comedian, left estate valued at £452,392 not according to his will published yesterday.

He left £16,666 each to his children Gary, Gail and Steven, and the residue to his wife, Joan. Probate has been granted to Mrs Morecambe.

Mr Morecambe, died aged 58 of a heart attack last May after collapsing in the wings of the Roscoe Theatre, Tewkesbury, at the end of a show.

Over the years he had raised thousands of pounds for charity.

Other wills, page 10



Pole position: Ford's new car, codename Scorpio, awaiting its launch.

Restyled 'Scorpio' in shape for spring

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

The much-delayed replacement for Ford's big Granada saloon, the most successful executive car of recent years, has been restyled to reduce its likeness to the Sierra and will be launched in about three months.

Codenamed Scorpio, it was planned to appear last summer as a stretched version of the Sierra, but initial unfavourable reaction to that Corina replacement is believed to have

prompted a crash restyling programme.

The last picture of the new Granada, taken in a London suburb, shows a remarkable resemblance to Rover's 3500 saloon. Last night Austin Rover said that the new Granada's shape was a tribute to the Rover's classic outlines.

In spite of the delay, Ford will steal a march on Project XX, the Rover replacement being produced in partnership

with Honda. That was scheduled to appear in about six months, but a problem with the new V6 Honda engine, for use in the most powerful version, has led to restyling of the front.

Company car buyers who claim to have had a preview of the XX were impressed, describing it as "very wedge-shaped with the front half of the present Rover and a high boot-line similar to the Volvo 760".

Insult victim wins right to appeal

A secretary fighting a legal battle to prove that a former employer acted unlawfully by calling her a "wog," yesterday won the right to take her case to the Court of Appeal.

Mrs Marlene de Souza, aged 45, of Brambling Close, Kempsford, Basingstoke, Hampshire, hopes to overturn a decision of the employment appeal tribunal that the word could not form the basis of a complaint against employers under the Race Relations Act.

The appeal tribunal had accepted that a manager for whom Mrs de Souza worked at the AA had said: "Give some typing to the wog." But it rejected her claim that, under the Act, the insult constituted a "detriment" for which she could be compensated.

Mr Robin Allen, for Mrs de Souza, argued that it was possible to suffer "detriment" merely by being "hurt" by a racist remark.

The court was told that by singing for charity, Mr Sage had collected £22 by the time he was arrested to December 6. Yesterday the magistrate, Dr Thomas Hobday, told Sage: "We are very sorry that you got tangled up with the judicial machinery in your efforts to help others."

Famine busker praised

Billy Sage, aged 31, a busker, was given an absolute discharge at Liverpool Magistrates' Court for collecting money for a charity without a permit, after the magistrate heard that he was collecting for the Ethiopian famine appeal.

His solicitor said: "Mr Sage decided he wanted to do his bit to help the victims. He was so keen he started collecting straight away instead of waiting

Steward cleared of murder

David Maxwell, aged 41, a club steward, of Julia Gardens, Barking, London, was cleared yesterday at the Central Criminal Court of murdering David Elmore, aged 36, a public house bouncer and James "Jimmy the Wad" Waddington, aged 38, who were said to have been hacked to death with swords at a restaurant in Barking on St

Woman gets £152,000 from lover's estate

Mrs Gillian Darby, the former mistress of Mr John Davey Hanson, a wealthy Hampshire businessman who died six years ago, yesterday accepted £152,500 in settlement of her High Court claim against his estate.

Miss Darby, of Furzedown Lane, Amport, near Andover, had been Mr Hanson's mistress from 1963 until his sudden death in March 1979. Mr Justice Peter Gibson was told. No provision had been made for her in his will, made in December 1964.

The estate, said to be now worth "considerably more than £1,200,000 net," had gone to his widow, Mrs Elizabeth Audrey Hanson, aged 52, and children.

Miss Darby's counsel said that Mr Hanson was a quantity surveyor with a construction business in the Middle East.

Revamp for Woolworth in search of custom

By Jeremy Warner

A new look is being planned by Woolworth Holdings for its 901 stores in Britain and Northern Ireland. A leading design consultancy, Fitch & Co, has been appointed to help to create a "new retailing concept" for the group, which is struggling to find a distinctive market niche in Britain's rapidly changing high streets.

Fitch's joint managing director, Mr Crispin Tweedell, is leaving to form an independent design consultancy which will also work with Woolworth on the revamp.

Mr Rodney Fitch, founder and deputy chairman of Fitch & Co, said that it was widely recognized that Woolworth had lost its way as a retailer.

Mr Geoffrey Mulcahy, a Woolworth director, said that the aim will be "to create a distinctive image for the chain, to build on our strengths and identify the weaknesses."

On the stock market, Fitch's shares shot up 25p to 40 1/2 yesterday in response to news of the contract.

£50,000 for asbestos death

Mrs Joan Smith of The Rise, Bexley, Kent, was awarded £50,000 damages in the High Court yesterday for the death of her husband from an asbestos-related disease. Mr Kenneth Smith, a telephone engineer, contracted the disease after coming into contact with asbestos dust while installing cables.

He died, aged 50, in November 1980. The damages are to be paid by Mr Smith's employers, British Telecom, which denied liability.

Libyan link with cash find

Scotland Yard, which has recovered £6,000 hidden on a mountain near Brecon, mid Wales, suspects that the cash has a Libyan connection.

It is understood that the police are linking the money with the disappearance from Britain of a relative of Colonel Gaddafi who was facing drugs charges.

Coldwell in UK

Coldwell Banker, part of the US Sears, Roebuck group and probably the world's largest property services group, has set up a representative office in London from which to conduct its European business. Its stockbroking operation, Dean Witter Reynolds, already has offices in the City which are rapidly expanding.

Refugee's prize

Mr Quan Tat, aged 22, a Vietnamese refugee who came to Britain five years ago, has won the chairman's prize for the best first-year student awarded by the board of studies in engineering at Bradford University.

Press pay deal

About 8,000 members of the National Union of Journalists on provincial newspapers have voted three to one to accept a 5 per cent pay rise which will provide increases of between £5.50 and £7.50 a week.

Greenham hotel

A £1.8 million hotel is to be built alongside the cruise missile base at Greenham Common, near Newbury, Berkshire. Outline planning permission has been granted to Fine Inns of Newbury.

Bar prices up

Bar prices at Reading University are to go up after complaints about an increase in the number of drink-related incidents on the campus.

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Legal costs scare editors

Still, there are plenty of editors concerned at the wave of libel cases, and the "chill factor". Mr. Grunwald said recently that it was significant that several right-wing groups had been set up to finance libel actions for political reasons.

Thus the trial is, in part, an inquiry into the way the war was fought. The question of enemy troop strengths has its roots in an old dispute between the army intelligence and the Central Intelligence Agency. The CIA said that enemy strength was more than 500,000. CBS said that General Westmoreland ordered that the figure should not be reported as more than 300,000.

Washington (Reuter) - For \$3,900 (£3,480) you may soon be cremated, tucked into a tiny gold-coloured capsule and blasted into space.

Washington (Reuter) - For \$3,900 (£3,480) you may soon be cremated, tucked into a tiny gold-coloured capsule and blasted into space.

American consortium, plans to rocket the remains of thousands of people into earth orbit by early 1987. Marketing efforts will begin in the United States next month and plans are also under way to seek flight "reservations" in Britain and Japan.

"We plan to launch a number of the 'space mausoleums' into orbit into deep space," Mr. John Cherry, spokesman for Celestis, said.

Celestis, based in Melbourne, Florida, has signed a contract with Space Services Inc. of Houston, Texas, which will build rockets for the venture.

The mausoleums, which will cost as much as \$10,000 for the tiny titanium capsules, are being designed by former US Government space engineers.

"The customers would first undergo normal cremation by their undertaker. Then we do a further reduction to reduce the weight of the ashes," Mr. Cherry, a Melbourne under-

The capsules will measure less than half an inch in diameter and about two inches long. Each will contain the name and social security number of the occupant.

"On our first contract, the cost will be \$3,900 each. We are looking at our first flight in the later part of 1986 or early 1987 and we could go with probably a

In 1983, price supports and other payments to farmers cost the Government nearly \$28 billion. This was nearly the net farm income for that year.

The Reagan Administration is proposing revolutionary changes in national agricultural policy in the Quadrennial Farm Bill which is soon to be sent to Congress. Its aim, in the words of Mr John Block, the Agricultural Secretary, is to provide the farming sector with "more jobs, more growth and more prosperity".

The Reagan Administration is trying to overhaul the system of subsidies and price supports which has been in existence for the past 50 years.

"We need a market-orientated bill that will keep us competitive in the world," Mr Block said. "Farmers must

Gateway to south: Lebanese civilians waiting in front of Israeli tanks for permission to cross into south Lebanon at the Batei-el-Choul crossing point

already evacuated a proportion of their men by sea, anticipating their annihilation if they stay.

Iran ready to help PoWs

Mandela visit

Skiers killed

considered a significant health risk.

produce in response to market price. We want the farmer's income to come from the market, not the US Treasury.

Six judges begin Rhondda

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SETTING NEW STANDARDS

Thousands flee into Thailand as Vietnamese guns kill 14

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

Vietnamese artillery killed 14 Cambodian civilians and wounded 30 in an attack early yesterday on a resistance camp near the Thai border.

The shelling occurred only hours before Senior Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations Secretary-General, arrived to discuss the war. He was met by General Prem Thoulonnou, the Thai Prime Minister. A Foreign Ministry spokesman at the airport described the Vietnamese attack on Dong Rek as "a welcome to the Secretary-General". Its timing, he said, demonstrated Vietnam's contempt for the UN.

After discussions with the Thai Government, Senior Pérez de Cuéllar will visit border areas tomorrow. On Monday, he will fly to Hanoi for talks with Vietnamese ministers.

He will then return here, and is expected to meet Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Mr Son Sann, leaders of the anti-communist groups opposed to Vietnam. There are no plans to meet representatives of the most powerful of the guerrillas, the communist Khmer Rouge.

The artillery attack on Dong Rek forced 22,000 more refugees into Thailand. Almost 200,000 have fled across the border since November.

When shells began falling after the people had gone to bed, they fled through the night with only a few possessions to shelter beside a canal just inside Thailand. Many spent hours in the water, feeling safer there.

A spokesman for the Khmer People's National Liberation Front said the attack was unjustified as all the people were civilians. Apart from one small camp, the Front's strongholds on the border have been captured by Vietnamese and Cambodian government forces.

During the attack on Dong Rek, some shells landed inside Thailand but no casualties were reported.

China has said it will not stand idly by if Vietnamese attacks on Thai territory continue. In response, Hanoi said Vietnamese forces had always respected Thailand's territorial integrity.

Lange told pact allies must keep in step

From Tony Dabondin, Melbourne

Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, has told New Zealand that the Anzus treaty between Australia, New Zealand and the United States cannot have different meanings and obligations for different members.

In Canberra yesterday Mr Hawke gave some details of a letter he wrote to Mr David Lange, his New Zealand counterpart, about his country's refusal to allow nuclear-powered or armed ships into its ports.

Mr Hawke said his letter, written on January 10, did not depart from Australia's established position on New Zealand's attitude.

However, the Prime Minister said that he would not release copies of the letter in accordance with past Government practice.

Mr Hawke also said that media reports about the letter were false, misleading and damaging. He said that in his letter he had informed Mr Lange that he would be visiting the United States in a month for talks with President Reagan but emphasised that he had no wish or intention to act as an emissary between the Governments of New Zealand and the United States.

The letter said Australia had its own well-known position on visits by US warships and the importance of maintaining the principle of neither confirming nor denying whether they were nuclear-powered. However, Australia could not accept as a permanent arrangement that the Anzus alliance had a different meaning and entailed different obligations for different members.

It is understood in Canberra that Mr Lange did not appreciate Mr Hawke's letter.



Mr David Lange: Letter not appreciated

Unesco is championed by Whitlam

Canberra (Reuters) - The former Australian Prime Minister, Mr Gough Whitlam, now his country's ambassador to the United States for withdrawing from the organization and removing a quarter of its budget.

There was an element of "if you can't run it wreck it" in the US decision, he told a press conference. He predicted the United States would rejoin Unesco in a few years.

Washington had mounted an assault on specialist aid agencies and international organizations and Unesco was vulnerable because it received a bad press, Mr Whitlam said.

The US did not want Unesco to appear as the vehicle for discussions and actions wanted by developing countries. Reports about mismanagement of Unesco funds were "colourful allegations," Mr Whitlam said.

He said US ambassadors were able and devoted men and women but they had little experience.

Britain might change its mind about withdrawing from Unesco, Mr Whitlam thought.

Ver gives himself up in Manila

From Keith Dalton, Manila

The chief of the Philippines armed forces, General Fabian Ver, and Manila's chief of police, Major-General Prospero Olivas, surrendered yesterday after being charged with the murder of the Opposition leader, Benigno Aquino, and Rolando Galman, the man accused by the military of the killing.

The generals and a businessman, Mr Hermelino Gosoico, charged as an accomplice in the double murder, posted bail at the anti-corruption Sandiganbayan court, where arraignment is set for next Friday.

General Ver, in civilian clothes and accompanied by an aide, surrendered at 6.30 am to the court. Three hours later, General Olivas, wearing his uniform and trailed by his lawyer, gave himself up. Both left after depositing 30,000 pesos (£1,400) bail.

Judge Manuel Pamaran ruled on sending them to the overcrowded Manila jail after police gave a warning that the inmates might kill them.

Argentina and Chile both hit at spy plane report

Buenos Aires (AFP) - A British report that Chile and Britain had an anti-Argentine spy arrangement during the Falklands war sought to "compromise" Argentine-Chilean ties, the Buenos Aires Government said.

The New Statesman reported the arrangement in this week's issue. Under the pact, it said, Chile allowed British aircraft bearing Chilean markings to fly out of the Punta Arenas airfield in southern Chile. The aircraft then flew over Argentina on spying and sabotage missions.

In return, the New Statesman said, Britain promised to give Chile an unspecified number of Canberra and Hawker Hunter aircraft, and to lift restrictions on arms sales to Chile.

● SANTIAGO: Chile has categorically denied the New Statesman report.

"The Foreign Ministry denies in the most categorical form and as absolutely false the affirmations of the English magazine the New Statesman, which maintained that there was a 'secret agreement' between Great Britain and Chile during the Falklands (Malvinas) conflict," a ministry statement said.

Radio Love ticket

It was decently disrespectful of Radio 3 to put out Of These I Sing on the eve of President Reagan's inauguration, for this American Thirties musical (written by George S. Kaufman and Morrie Ryskind with lyrics by Ira Gershwin and music by brother George) revolved around the election to the presidency of one John P. Wintergreen on a ticket only marginally more far-fetched than some we have heard of in this instance. Love, The Candidate, a bachelor, is persuaded that he should wed the winner of a nationwide beauty contest, which promise indeed leads to his election by a large majority.

The winner of the beauty contest turns out to be a loud and charming Southern belle, Diana Devereaux, whose rejection in favour of his true love drops the President into a suit for breach of promise. However, none of this seriously threatens his eventual triumph, and his place in the hearts of the American people is assured when the First Lady delivers twins. Boy and girl - of course. In that order - of course.

All great fun. Or nearly all, and a considerable slice of it, for the professional listener and radio devotee, arose from the knowledge that American radio is still capable of mounting such an ambitious dramatic production and such a successful one. The National Radio Theatre of Chicago, under the direction of Yuri Rasovsky (who also adapted the script), had very effectively scaled down the traditional expansive stage musical style of acting. The story line, with the aid of a bit of narration, was clear and generally well linked, and the sound picture was only occasionally a bit thin.

My reservations sprang mainly from the work itself. The first act had plenty of impetus, culminating as it did in the presidential wedding-cum-inauguration, followed at once by the appearance of the dire Devereaux bearing twins.

Kaufman and Ryskind also uncovered a vein of gold in the character of Throbelbottom, the vice-presidential candidate, whom nobody ever recognizes; and there were some good lines, including the classic definition of an issue - something everybody's interested in that doesn't matter a damn.

But there was a much better sustained line of satire in Ken Blakeson's play, Famous Last Words (Radio 4, January 14 and 20; director, Robert Cooper), in which Frank Fennel, an unemployed writer (well acted by Paul Copley), finds he has cancer and decides to commit public suicide.

This news is pounced on by a television company whose concern is chiefly how they can broadcast this event without, like the above John P. Wintergreen, dropping themselves in all kinds of dung. Fennel leads them a considerably dance and has the last four laugh by injecting poison in between run-through and take when no one is shooting anything.

Set down like this, I must admit it sounds the sort of story calculated very quickly to pass beyond the bounds of credibility. Yet I heard it without for one moment feeling that Mr Blakeson had done so - particularly when I thought how many times the black-eyed little box in the living room has brought me scenes as distressing, if not more so. Remember the Vietnam prisoner shot in the head? How many times were we shown that one in full detail and even, if I recall, in slow motion?

This was a story well enough rooted in how we behave - as opposed to how we say we behave - easily to sustain the quietly grotesque elements its author gave it.

I am going to enjoy Michael (Radio 4, Saturdays), Michael Mason's six-part production on the lives of the Indian princes, mostly in the years before they were dispossessed. For a start Mr Mason appears to be feeding in star, tabla and sound effect with a fairly light hand. Then the interviewer, compiler and presenter is Charles Allen, whose previous work in similar series (Plain Tales from the Raj and its successors) has established him as a man who can draw marvellous vivid memories out of his contributors.

I particularly relished the tale of the British surgeon called on the perform an appendectomy on the son of a prince with most of the court watching. Nervous, he whistled "Mary had a Little Lamb" throughout the (fortunately successful) operation. The tune went down in court tradition as a powerful spell and a recording of it was preserved in the royal treasury.

David Wade



Mad dog and Englishman: Stalin (Philip McGough) and Churchill (Peter Sprangle)

Theatre History is a mad dog

The Power of the Dog Hampstead

Iona, the heroine of Howard Barker's play, is a Hungarian photographer who falls into the hands of the Russian Army after spending four years wandering around wartime Europe with her father's old wet-plate camera. Her charmed life does not desert her now.

Finding her sister hanged, she discovers her (after photographing the corpse); she shaves off the killing of her Jewish partner and the arrest of her NKVD brother. And is last seen photographing Stalin ("It is Joseph, isn't it?") cool as ever in her neat skirt and freshly styled hair.

You could take her for a 1944 descendant of Brecht's Mother Courage: another figure tramping over a devastated landscape in the wake of the armies in relentless pursuit of trade and personal survival. But the analogy breaks down when it comes to Iona's trade, as what she is assembling is a photographic record of suffering and atrocity for the eyes of people who were not there. One oddity of the piece is that, unlike her cartoonist counterpart in Barker's *No End of Blame*, she

never talks about her work or her motives for doing it: she simply gets on with the next picture and with saving her skin.

Barker is not a writer who encapsulates his meanings in key speeches; but if there is any speech that unlocks this theatrical mechanism, it is the statement that "history is a mad dog the best thing is to lie down and show your throat."

There are several characters who adopt this policy, and they all come to a sticky end, by exposing what Iona calls the "sick dog eyes that beckon rifle butts." And the play draws a persistent contrast between them and the figures who assert their civilian identities and behave as though there were no dog there at all. There is a girl film student, (Amelie Brown) now in uniform, generalising her vision of a three-screen historical cinema. There is the NKVD man, played by Hugh Fraser with the languid elegance of a White Russian dandy. And there is Stephanie Fayerman's Iona, tight, businesslike features giving nothing away as she sets up her tripod in the mud where soldiers stage post-mortem re-enactments of "The Cauldron scene from *Macbeth*."

To some extent, as in other Barker plays, this leaves the

uneasy sense of a dramatist consciously contradicting the bourgeois audience's expectations. The canvas is so broad and some of the writing so self-intoxicated that the dramatic pattern becomes swamped in separate detail.

This complaint does not apply to the play's framing scenes which take place in the inner court of the Kremlin. The play goes straight in at the deep end with a post-Stalingrad meeting between Stalin and Churchill (with much hilarious byplay from the winning translators).

I regret that in deference to the tastes of Churchill (Peter Sprangle), Mr Barker has let loose a mirthless Scottish comedian as a Soviet court jester. But otherwise, he has not shirked the obvious in contrasting the front-line scenes with the sight of the Leader and Teacher immersed only in thoughts of his own destiny; and pausing in discussion of the moral value of music to dispatch a cattle truck of kulaks on their one-way journey. The final meeting between Iona and this affably paranoid ogre (Philip McGough), has great climactic force in Kenny Ireland's Joint Stock production, bringing her face to face with the mad dog.

Irving Wardle

Television

Granada's *The Practice*, written by Mike Scott, is running twice a week, on Fridays and Sundays. It is set in a health centre staffed in a way that might make a few GPs, not to mention their patients, stir nervously.

It may also, if it catches on, and given that it deals with the misfortunes of others there is a good chance that it will, deter all but the bravest from seeking to swell the ranks of those in general practice.

On the strength of last night's episode it seems, such is the

pressure, that the doctors themselves might soon become suitable cases for treatment. They appear to have more than their fair share of the ills that flesh can be heir to.

There is the coloured youth alleging assault by the police, the wife whose husband has refused a vasectomy because he has a fantasy that at any moment he might be confronted with a beautiful woman asking him to make her pregnant, a couple who shout at each other about whether their

child, which evidence suggests might suffer from spine bifida, should be born, and a patient who is worried because she is so well.

It is all done in that busy-busy manner so expertly done in *St Elsewhere* and *Hill Street Blues* on Channel 4. All the bombs, medical or psychological, are jettisoned within 30 minutes.

No clear solution to any of the above problems was visible at the end though the fantasising husband, banished to the end of the garden because of his antipathy to vasectomy, was now enthusiastic about having one. The doctor thought he

might be fantasising. Tomorrow is another day and we might hear something. That is the whole thing about soap, even hygienic soap, operas. This one is well acted and well directed by David Richards. Let us hope everyone gets well soon.

Dennis Hackett



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BANK OF SCOTLAND Account Details
As at close of business 14 Jan 85

Account No 00428407

Balance	125.84
Today's items	75.43
Fund transfers pending	65.00
Keycard withdr. pending	30.00
Interest accrued	1.12
Charges accrued	0.50
Overdraft limit	200.00
Cash available from Keycard	70.00

Key 0 Account menu 1 Statement
2 Today's items 3 Finish

UP TO DATE INFORMATION.

Bank of Scotland
Make Bill Payments

Mandate No 104
To E of S Visa Card
Reference 07/10/20/217

Account to be debited on 04th February 1985

Amount £174.26

Bill paid by 06th February 1985

No changes after 30th January 1985

Key 1 To confirm this payment
2 To change this payment
3 To cancel this payment

PAYMENT OF BILLS.

Bank of Scotland
BANK OF SCOTLAND Inter-account transfers
Details

From Current Account No 00428407
Grant J A Pers Acc
Home Banking Centre

To Investment Account No 02037184
Grant J A
Home Banking Centre

Amount £100.00

Key 1 To send 2 Not to send
3 Change Accounts 4 Change Amount 5 Change both

INTER-ACCOUNT TRANSFERS.

Bank of Scotland
Standing Order Mandates Held

To	Next Due	Unit	Amount
Upland Electricity Monthly	30Jan85	30Nov85	32.40
British Gas Monthly	06Feb85	06Sep85	31.15
Midshires Council Monthly	01Feb85	01Mar85	57.81
General Life Ass Monthly	31Jan85	N.A.	22.45
United Auto Ins Quarterly	15Mar85	15Jun85	26.95

Key 7 More Mandates
9 Finish

STANDING ORDER DETAILS.

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A/C No 00428407 Statement

Date	Details	Amount	Balance
11Jan85	398410	-45.00	225.97
11Jan85	P B Oil	8.75	235.72
12Jan85	398412	-27.42	208.30
13Jan85	Keycard 90375603	-100.00	108.30
14Jan85	Bank Giro Credit	47.52	155.82
14Jan85	398413	-29.90	125.84

Key 7 Similar items
9 Finish

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT.

Bank of Scotland
BANK OF SCOTLAND Cash Management
148 High St Southampton
ACCOUNT: 00101407 CURRENCY: STG

Ledger position on first lines
Debitments expiring and cleared
position on second lines

Date	Credit	Debit	Balance
14Jan1985	1,456	504	1,733
15Jan1985	389	750	2,094
16Jan1985	0	1,048	1,117
17Jan1985	0	0	2,094
17Jan1985	0	2,884	1,767
17Jan1985	0	0	2,094
17Jan1985	0	327	2,094

Key 9 Finish

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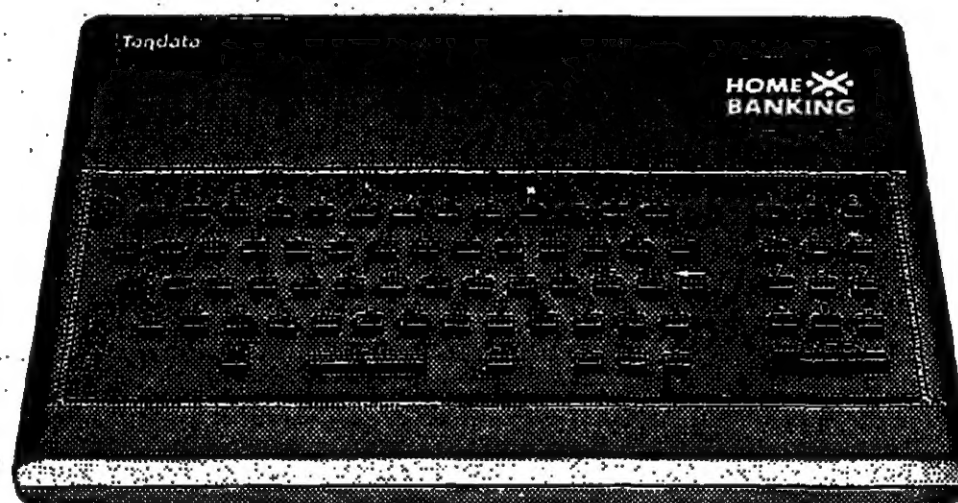
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SPORTING DIARY

Simon Barnes

Playing both sides

The House of Commons has fallen a little short in its attempts to find 15 men good and true for a rugby team. It takes on the Irish MPs' team on the morning of the England-Ireland international on March 30. "We have around 12 members, and should come up with a full team of fairly decent standard," declared captain Humphrey Malins (Conservative, Croydon North-west, hooker, Richmond and Southern Counties). Numbers will be made up from Palace of Westminster staff. Neil Kinnoch, says Malins, "has expressed interest", but the balance remains firmly on the Tory side. Denis Thatcher was invited to referee but declined the honour. The side will play in a tasteful shade of dark Liberal yellow.

Down and up

Like so many other good things in life, the Chinese are thought to have invented skiing. Now they are learning modern skiing techniques from the Austrians in exchange for coaching in table tennis, at which they excel. The Chinese appeared on the international circuit four years ago, using 1920-style equipment and recording times of startling slowness. Now the top 12 Chinese skiers are working with the best modern equipment and will ski at the world championships in Bormio, Italy, next month. They don't expect to do well, but coach Yang Erqi says: "Our women are among the toughest in the world."

Spelling it out

Self-proclaimed Neapolitan witch Rita Moccia says it was she, with the help of a talisman, who restored Napoli's Argentinian football ace Diego Maradona to form. She gave it to him on a Friday, and the following Sunday he scored the only goal of the game against Fiorentina. Maradona was under a malign spell, she said. Removing it, without actually meeting him, was hard work.

● In Tickenham's centenary season the Rugby Union chaps were some what tricky when they listened to the post-tour speech by Matthew Stone, captain of the New Zealand Secondary Schools. He referred to Tickenham's incomparable player facilities as "the dressing sheds".

Goal postponed

VS Rugby and Sudbury are making an impressive challenge for the record number of football postponements. Their FA Vase third round match ended 2-2. After a replay, the score was 2-2 again. After a second replay it was 1-1. Since then, the third replay has been postponed seven times, and today they are trying for the eighth time. The record is held by the Scots in the 1978-79 season a Scottish Cup tie between Toverness Thistle and Falkirk was postponed 29 times.

Batty idea

A cricket archivist has just embarked on one of the most gruelling tasks a cricket nut has ever undertaken. Gordon Phillips is compiling a complete index to every article ever published in every magazine in the cricketing world. He has just started with *The Cricketer* (launched in 1921), and after the first two numbers he has started 50 index cards. He has also to consider *Wisden Cricket Monthly*, a babe of six years, and *Cricketer*, published from 1882 to 1913. Then he will move overseas. The MCC has given moral support but has no cash to spare. Phillips is now on the hunt for some kind of commercial sponsorship. He reckons it would be five years' full-time work. At his current rate, he estimates completion would be "several lifetimes of spare time".

Arsenal it is

Last week I claimed that the highest number of players from a single club to turn out for England was seven, from Arsenal. What, then, I am asked, about Corinthians, who in two matches, in 1894 and 1895, provided all eleven? *Rothmans Football Yearbook*, however, says: this record "cannot be considered because the Corinthians were a combined eleven, and most of their players were with different clubs". In fact, the Corinthians were formed (by N. L. "Pa" Jackson) to challenge the supremacy of Scotland, who had beaten England six times in seven years, and were a collection of the best players from old boy and university sides. Of the two teams with eleven Corinthians, only one in each listed Corinthians as his main club.

BARRY FANTONI



"Sad to see a great leader pulling back his lawyers from defeat"

100 years after Gordon's death at Khartoum, Peter Johnson suggests that responsibility for his fate rests principally with the hero of Queen and public himself

The misfit and the Mahdi



Two days later: Sir Charles Wilson's relief force runs the gauntlet of Sudanese fire as it arrives off Khartoum. Right, General Gordon, far from the innocent martyr portrayed by his supporters

A short, stumpy woman garbed in black walked unannounced and unattended into the drawing room of Osborne Cottage in the Isle of Wight. Mary, wife of Sir Henry Ponsonby, and her two daughters had just finished breakfast. They leapt, startled to their feet. The caller, pale and trembling, spoke in a voice seething with anger. "Too late," she said. "Khartoum has fallen. Gordon is dead."

Queen Victoria had driven the quarter of a mile from Osborne to her private secretary's house seeking someone with whom to share her grief at the news received in Whitehall in the small hours of the morning. Later, she made her feelings clear in a telegram to her prime minister, William Ewart Gladstone: "to think that all this might have been prevented and many precious lives saved by earlier action is too frightful."

The debate over responsibility for the death of Charles George Gordon on January 26 1885 is still unresolved 100 years later. The historical whodunnit smoulders on, a Victorian class act of absurdity and blunder.

Decades of Egyptian misrule in the Sudan prepared the ground for the religious and nationalist magnetism of Mohammed Ahmed, the self-proclaimed Mahdi, the guided one. By the beginning of 1884 his victories were causing panic in Cairo and arousing passions in London. Gladstone, irked by Britain's responsibilities for Egyptian affairs following the British Army's suppression of a short-lived Egyptian revolt in 1882, reluctantly agreed to send a senior officer to Khartoum.

Even in one of the earliest sittings of Gordon's name for candidature, the Foreign Secretary, Lord Granville, warned Gladstone in a letter: "He has a small bee in his bonnet." Impelled to do something to counter the Mahdi, but uncertain what it should be, the government hoped it had found an answer in a soldier-mystic: a Royal Engineer who served in the Crimea and became a public hero for his deeds in the wars in China - but that was nearly 20 years earlier: an administrator who had scourged the Sudan slave trade - but who had since held only obscure posts, an eccentric dubbed "half-cracked" by Sir Evelyn Baring, Britain's representative in Cairo.

Torquemada, the arch-fiend of our craft, published a book of his problems shortly before the last war so that solvers who had not grown up with him might see from a chronological set of his puzzles how his mind worked. The solver, he said, could not expect to come in successfully at half-time. "This is indeed a difficulty for would-be solvers, particularly the younger. Cryptic crosswords have accreted a whole vocabulary of abbreviations, indicators and so on, rather like the conventional signs on a map. If one doesn't know the signs, how is one to read the map? The best advice for the would-be solver is to get hold of a book on cryptic crosswords for beginners. The most helpful I know is *The Daily Telegraph's How to do crosswords* by May Abbott, published by Collins in paperback. Meanwhile, in the hope of ensuring new victims, I offer what one might call Seven Types of Ambiguity (to filch William Empson's title), explaining the kind of clues we use with examples from recent puzzles.

● **Build-ups.** The compiler's staple material. Many words can be broken down into smaller words or abbreviations which can then be used in their separate meanings. Thus, in "Old man's weapons demanded by gentries" the words "Pa's" and "swords" combine to form the answer **PASSWORDS**. Similarly, "The defender has a game point" produces **A/POLO/GIST**.

These building blocks can be assembled variously. One of the constituent words can be taken from the middle of the answer, and the other from the outside segments, to give clues such as "Row about no enclosure of this with sardines" - **TIN-OPENER**, ie, **TIER** round **NO PEN**. Or the answer may be disguised by being in reverse order, thus, "Date when no one with taste is around" yields **AS** (when) followed by **NO I** (with) **TANG** IS which, when reversed (indicated by "around") gives us **ASSIGNATION**, or date.

● **Anagrams.** The early cryptic crosswords telegraphed their punches by putting (anag) after the jumbled word or phrase. Today the compiler gives a coded warning that an anagram is lurking, but at the same time tries to mislead the solver into thinking it is not.

Nevertheless, on the evening of Sunday January 18, 1884, Major-General Gordon boarded the 8 o'clock continental boat train at Charing Cross on his way to Khartoum. Granville bought his ticket. The Duke of Cambridge, army commander-in-chief, held open the carriage door. Lord Wolseley, the adjutant-general, handed over a bag of 300 gold sovereigns, collected in a hurried tour of London clubs at the last minute when Gordon revealed he had no money on him.

There was a dangerous vagueness about Gordon's "instructions". Gladstone was left with the firm impression that his duties extended only to reporting on the situation in the Sudan. Although he subsequently assented to executive action - evacuation of the Egyptian garrisons - he could never shake from his mind the idea that Gordon had wilfully disobeyed instructions by making war on the Mahdi.

In April Frank Le Poer Power, *The Times* correspondent in Khartoum, sent a despatch describing the city as "the centre of an enormous rebel camp". This and earlier despatches from Power had engendered public apprehension and wrath in Gladstone. The Prime Minister indulged in a war of semantics: Gordon was not "surrounded", but "hemmed in". By August, however, Gladstone gave way to entreaties for a relief expedition led by Wolseley. His subsequent failure tarnished Wolseley's popular reputation as "England's only general".

Wolseley staffed his high command with cronies from earlier campaigns known as the "Wolseley Ring", a policy which led to jealousies, bickering and paralysis of decision on the Nile. The boats were hopelessly delayed in the cataracts. Mismanagement caused a dearth of coal for the steamers and a critical shortage of camels for the final desert dash. In battle the soldiers' rifles jammed and bayonets twisted like tin.

At the tip of a pyramid of mistakes and delay, an obscure colonel was exposed somewhat harshly as the architect of final disaster. Thrust into command of the tiny advance force by the death or mortal wounding of his superiors,

Sir Charles Wilson, an intelligence officer with no experience of battle command, wasted three vital days in reconnaissance and preparation before embarking for Khartoum in Gordon's steamers *Bordein* and *Tel-el-Hoween* which he found awaiting him at Metemneh on the Nile.

Lord Charles Beresford, commander of the naval detachment, has been blamed for abetting the delay. Fearless, impetuous and persuasive, Beresford in normal circumstances would have been the last to tolerate inaction. But he was incapacitated by a painful boil on his bottom, and is accused of countenancing and supporting Wilson's natural caution in the hope that the sailing of the steamers might be delayed until he could be fit enough to accompany them.

Wilson's small party arrived off Khartoum on Wednesday, January 28, 1885. The city had fallen and Gordon had been murdered two days earlier.

Gordon had conducted a brilliant and epic defence, but, as if guided by his ill-fated death wish, he helped seal his own doom. By proclaiming at Berber in February the abandonment of the Sudan by Egypt he effectively drove wavering chiefs and tribes into the arms of the Mahdi. He failed to organize any large-scale evacuation. By insisting on remaining in Khartoum, he put himself in a position to be a military expedition which would seriously involve Britain in the Sudan, even taking the extreme step of sending away by steamer the cyphers which alone would have enabled him to read coded messages and entreaties from Cairo and London.

Churchill wrote of him: "His moods were capricious and uncertain, his passions violent, his impulses sudden and inconsistent." Lytton Strachey, seeking to topple the pedestals of *Eminent Victorians* in 1918, infuriated admirers of Gordon by blaming the hero's veering moods on the "dangerous restoratives" of drink. Strachey's waspish case is demolished, Gordon's biographical defenders have replied, because it was based almost wholly on the allegations of a disaffected and lying American former aide, Colonel Charles Chaillé-Long, who referred to

Gordon's drinking habits in a book published in 1912.

Had Strachey searched more diligently, he would have unearthed support for his case without resting it precariously on the testimony of the discredited Long. Baring wrote 27 years after Gordon's death: "There is not in reality the least doubt that he drank deeply." Wilfred Scawen Blunt, a contemporary and a Liberal champion of the Arabs, had heard rumours of Gordon's heavy drinking. Joseph Reinach, secretary of the French statesman Leon Gambetta, became acquainted with Gordon on a voyage from Africa to Europe in 1880 and observed: "He was a terrible drinker of brandy."

One of Gordon's staunchest defenders in this matter, Bernard M. Allen, in *Gordon and the Sudan* (1931), quotes Lord Esher, at whose house Gordon was a frequent visitor: "It has been said that he failed to do his duty, and he has been called an ineffectual. These accusations are absurdly false." Allen also reports a conversation in which the daughter of the Rev R. H. Barnes, a close friend of Gordon, asked Lord Kitchener about the rumours of Gordon's drinking. Kitchener described them as "a damned lie".

Esher's rebuttal of "false accusations" was made in 1908. Kitchener's condemnation of "a damned lie" was delivered in 1903. Believers in no smoke without fire could reasonably point out that a smouldering bonfire existed some considerable time before Long stirred the embers in 1912 and Strachey fanned the flames in 1918.

At noon today, a century after his death, wreaths will be laid at Gordon's statue in Embankment Gardens, London. Tomorrow a service of remembrance in St Paul's Cathedral will salute a Victorian soldier-hero and devout Christian, revered as an innocent martyr. It is not the whole story. Gordon must also face history as a brandy-swilling misfit, irrational and obstinate, whose God-intoxication, death wish and capacity for sometimes crass judgments led him to engineer an elaborate and expensive act of self-destruction.

Patrick Stephens (29.95). © Thea Newsprint Limited, 1985

Our Crossword Editor offers a basic guide to all who flinch from the daily challenge

Before 1 across take those seven steps down

Thus, "Herodias danced here under the British" misleadingly suggests a possible historical allusion (Herodias was the mother of Salome) whereas in fact the answer is an anagram (the coded warning, or indicator, being "danced") of Herodias, which spells **RHODESIA**. The indicators warning of the presence of anagrams should in fairness point to change, movement, strangeness, wrongness or the like.

In the following examples the anagram is shown in italics: The center moving into the jump (**ENTRECHAT**). Beach shoes are quite wrong here (**SEASHORE**).

If the anagram is sufficiently apt, even long phrases can be made to sound natural in false contexts: "Beaten World Cup team ready for a dust-up" (**TALCUM POWDER**). Solvers may like to know that our compilers ration themselves to a

maximum of five complete or almost complete anagrams per puzzle.

● **Double meanings.** Even the simplest words can have several meanings which can be exploited by the compiler, particularly if they are contradictory. The clue "Not enough butter? What a predicament" exploits the double meaning of **SCRAPE**. In the same way, "Cut required by order of the Crown" (**TONSURE**) refers to a monastic order and the top part of the head, and not to a royal command.

● **Hidden Words.** The solution is hidden in the clue, which contains its definition. Its presence is indicated by a word like "in", or "part" or "some" - for example, "Some hurricane winds again" (**ANEW**). Or more subtly as in "Stretch of the Clyde bristling with wreckage" (**DEBRIS**), or "Macabre business centre mystery" (**REBUS**). We ration ourselves to one hidden clue per puzzle.

This year's Championship

The qualifying puzzle for the 1985 Collins Dictionaries-Times Crossword Championship will be published in *The Times* on Thursday, February 7. Entries must be postmarked not later than Friday, February 15. If there are more successful entrants than can be accommodated in a particular region (as happened last year in Bristol and London), they will be asked to attempt an elimination puzzle of unusual difficulty on March 21. Regional finals: Glasgow, Central Hotel (capacity 300 each competitor) Sunday, March 31; Leeds,

Queen's Hotel (300) Sunday, April 21; Bristol, Grand Hotel (170) Sunday, May 19; London A, Saturday, June 1; and London B, Sunday, June 2, Park Lane Hotel (300 each). The national final will be held at the Park Lane Hotel on Sunday, September 8. Collins will again be running a separate Bookshop Crossword competition. Entry forms will be available from bookshops from March 18 to April 30. A Collins English Dictionary will be awarded to winning customers and their booksellers.

● **Addition and Subtraction.** A different form of hidden words, where the answer has to be found by adding or subtracting elements in the clue. Thus, the answer to "Sweetheart could take NCO to dance" is **FLAME**, another word for sweetheart, because the addition of **NCO** would give us **FLAMENCO**, or dance. Subtraction enables us to deduce the answer **ALLEGRO** from the clue "Music for leaderless orchestra - a group not up to it" - (**HALF/CROUP**).

● **Homophones.** Many words with different spellings or meanings are pronounced the same. Their use in crosswords is indicated by such phrases as "they say", "we hear", "by the sound of it", etc. In this way "Bad driver had piggy back ride, we hear" means **ROAD HOG** because, we hear he rode on one.

● **Witful misrepresentation.** By looking at something from an unusual angle the compiler may hit on an oblique description that amuses and misleads. These clues are a bearing on the fall in male employment and it can be argued that the cheaper and more amenable labour provided by women kept some industries viable that would otherwise have collapsed, causing even more male unemployment.

However, the number of women at work, which is growing fast, must have had some impact on the unemployment figures and will have more. It would be neither desirable nor practicable to persuade large numbers of women to stay at home and let their jobs be done by men, but the increase in the number working should make a difference to the way we look at the unemployment figures.

Another phenomenon invalidates a direct comparison between present and past unemployment figures. The early 1960s was a period of an unusually high birth rate, running at more than 900,000 a year and reaching a peak of 980,000 in 1964. For each of the last five years some 900,000 newcomers have been trying to enter a labour market which only 600,000 people have been leaving each year on retirement. Had the retirement figure matched the number of new entrants, unemployment would have been reduced by at least a million.

In 1977 the number of births had fallen to around 600,000 a year, so it will not be before 1993 that the number entering the labour market is roughly in line with those retiring. For another eight years there will be

Nothing short of victory

David Hart

Since the beginning of the miners' dispute the moral centre of the argument has obliged the Government and National Coal Board to remain on the defensive and face Scargill down. Despite continuing negotiations throughout the summer and too many coal board concessions, the Government managed to hold its ground.

In response, attacks of an unprecedented ferocity were made on the police and the working miners which Scargill and his colleagues did nothing to prevent. The confrontation at Orgreave was the great set-piece battle. Scargill lost. Now the will of the union leadership seems largely exhausted.

Last week, while Scargill was crowing that the decline of the pound was his doing, his union was collapsing around him. The schism in the union will not be repaired by delaying the delegate conference called to rubber-stamp the decision to expel Nottingham, nor by negotiation to settle the strike. The split is geographically wide. It extends to Leicestershire, South Derbyshire, Midlands, Lancashire, even Selby in Yorkshire. Feelings run deep among the working miners. Whatever happens to the strike the NUM will continue to break up.

These men have made it clear that they do not want to destroy their union, or even to break away from it. They do want to destroy Scargill. Their dream is to so organize themselves and other areas that the breakaway union will eventually reunite, embracing the entire NUM membership.

The Nottingham NUM executive committee, where the schism began, is controlled by working miners. Things are much more complicated for men in other areas, notably the Midlands, where, with only 980 men now on strike out of a total workforce in 12,700 all but a handful of the union branches are controlled by pro-Scargill strikers.

The dissatisfaction with the union leadership expresses itself most clearly as antagonism to three Scargill proposals for change:

● The now famous "Star Chamber" Rule 51 introduced in July intended to give the NUM leadership power to discipline members at national rather than, as hitherto, at area level.

● Scargill's attempt to reorganize union areas to consolidate his dominance of the national executive committee by merging moderate areas into larger groups with less representation. The most glaring example of this is the plan to merge Leicestershire, South Derbyshire, Midlands and the Power group, representing 2,000 men, to have two instead of the present four NEC representatives. Militant Kent, meanwhile, with 2,000 men, would remain independent and retain its seat. Working miners' groups calcu-

late that the reorganization, if implemented, will result in a loss of six moderate seats and only one militant seat.

● Scargill's proposal to institute new national rules to supersede area rules, thus confiscating each area's independence. Each area currently has its own rules and is, in effect, an autonomous union within the federation of the NUM.

Scargill after 1983 NUM conference decisions as his authority for these changes. The same conference, called for a ballot on pay and pit closures before a strike was called.

Although Scargill backed away from the second and third of these proposals, this week he tried to disguise his retreat with a campaign to restart negotiations. He has only deferred his plans.

With increasing signals even from Scargill that the union wants peace, with the increasing number of men returning to work, with the NUM disintegrating, the pressure on the coal board to negotiate grows every day. It is clear from the confusion this week that some NCB executives have already succumbed. Many commentators believe that the strike will have to be ended by negotiation with Scargill. Any true negotiation now would represent defeat for the coal board and the nation since there would inevitably be further concessions, even if they were disguised in new language.

The time for negotiated settlements is past. Scargill has to agree to the closure of uneconomic pits within the procedures set out in the settlement last October with Nacods, the pit deputies' union. He must accept, in advance of the talks and in writing, that the board has the right to manage the industry.

There must be no equivocation. Those who call for bridges to be built so that Scargill can beat an elegant retreat misunderstand the temper of the nation. Scargill challenged the authority of the state; he openly boasted that he would do to the Thatcher government what the miners had done to the Heath government. He and his colleagues presided over unprecedented violence. The nation wants to see him defeated.

The Coal Board proposals are more than fair. They are still on the table. If Scargill and his colleagues do not have the courage to pick them up, they must be defeated - for the sake of the increasing number of working miners; for the sake of the members of other unions who have refused, despite great pressure from their own leaders, to be coaxed into industrial action by Scargillite arguments; for the sake of ordinary Britons everywhere who have loyally supported the Government. The nation will not easily forgive those responsible if defeat, whether by compromise or fudge, is snatched from the jaws of victory.

Woodrow Wyatt

Calling up a jobless solution

Twenty years ago full employment, or something near it, seemed more or less permanent. Britain, excluding Northern Ireland, then had 340,000 unemployed. By March 1984 there were more than three million.

Much of the increase is due to restrictive union practices, forcing up wages so that our unit output costs have accelerated way beyond those of our competitors. Some is due to low quality management and some to the effects of international depression, increased oil prices and so forth.

New elements have now emerged making a return to full employment, or even halving the present level of unemployment, a distant prospect. One is the greater number of women in the labour market.

Between March 1965 and March 1985 the number of men classified as employed in Britain (excluding Northern Ireland and excluding the self-employed) fell from 14.4 million to 11.7 million. In the same period the number of women in paid employment rose from 8.1 million to 9 million.

I do not suggest that, if these additional women workers had stayed at home, male unemployment would have fallen by the same figure. Obsolescence of their industries and a bearing on the fall in male employment and it can be argued that the cheaper and more amenable labour provided by women kept some industries viable that would otherwise have collapsed, causing even more male unemployment.

However, the number of women at work, which is growing fast, must have had some impact on the unemployment figures and will have more. It would be neither desirable nor practicable to persuade large numbers of women to stay at home and let their jobs be done by men, but the increase in the number working should make a difference to the way we look at the unemployment figures.

Another phenomenon invalidates a direct comparison between present and past unemployment figures. The early 1960s was a period of an unusually high birth rate, running at more than 900,000 a year and reaching a peak of 980,000 in 1964. For each of the last five years some 900,000 newcomers have been trying to enter a labour market which only 600,000 people have been leaving each year on retirement. Had the retirement figure matched the number of new entrants, unemployment would have been reduced by at least a million.

a demographic upward pressure on unemployment, making the task of containing it, let alone reducing it, harder than it was two or three decades ago. The signs are that unemployment will not increase much in the near future, and may fall a little, but it is uphill work, particularly in view of the reluctance to curb wage demands.

In the year to October 1984 hourly earnings in manufacturing rose by 8.9 per cent in the United Kingdom compared with less than 4 per cent in the US and about 2 per cent in West Germany and Japan. That is doubtless one reason for our inflation of about 5 per cent - considerably higher than those countries. Considering the difficulties we make for ourselves it is surprising that unemployment has not risen more than it has.

Eighty-seven per cent of people are employed and doing nicely. That is one explanation for the calm way in which the country takes the unemployment figures: another is that a fairly large and unascertainable number are doing jobs on the side, and yet another is that there is no great difference between living standards between being unemployed and working in the lowest paid jobs.

But it is not pleasant to contemplate a figure of around three million unemployed for the next five years or so. Nor need we. The last Macmillan administration foolishly abolished National Service, making us unique among our European partners. Opinion polls indicate that a substantial majority is in favour of it in some form, not merely to improve our defences but to make young people more aware of their duties to their country.

The Government should bow to this popular feeling and reintroduce National Service. For a long time after the war the period was two years from the age of 18. There are still about 450,000 males reaching 18 annually: two years' National Service for them would, at a stroke, reduce the unemployment figures by 900,000. It is unlikely that the cost would greatly exceed unemployment, and related benefits. Providing uniforms, equipment and other supplies for a new body of National Servicemen would create more jobs; something that should appeal to those who believe that unemployment can be relieved on a long-term basis by extra government spending. National Service would be a respectable way of reducing unemployment, putting us on a par with other Western European nations. And an unemployment figure hovering at around two million would seem much more tractable than one of three million.

John Grant
Chief Dirty Dog



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PRIORITIES FOR PAY

It is hard luck on the local government manual workers. Their wage negotiations come right at the outset of the "going rate" has traditionally been a matter of intense political sensitivity. It has long been a grievance with them that, low paid as they are, their claims are resisted to set a good example to other groups who in the nature of things tend to do a little better as the season goes on, season after season. This year, as well as trying to squeeze a 4½ per cent offer as far up towards 5 per cent as they can, they sought to retreat from their invidious position at the head of the queue. They suggested April, when other large public service groups' negotiations also fall due.

It hardly matters just now. For the immediate future and perhaps longer the fall in inflation has made leapfrogging less significant, and cash limits have stiffened the employers' side regardless of date. The manual workers' award a year ago was not greatly blighted by the settlements that followed. Whatever case there may be for moving them right to the back of the queue, into the summer, it would not be wise to agree to a date in April which would have the effect of creating a block of more than three million health and council workers, teachers and civil servants all in a position to act in concert.

Cash limits have taken much of the old mystique out of each percentage point in public sector negotiations. The manual settlement is sure to be above the three per cent which the Government has set as target (for the third year running) for its own employees and written into cash

limits. The gap is small enough to be filled by savings in manpower and overtime. Each worker is offered an increase equal to the rate of inflation or a little better, but slightly below the current national rise in earnings, now fairly steady at 7.5 per cent. But yesterday's breakdown of talks, the nearest approach to outright conflict for four or five years, is a warning sign of pressures building up.

Since the Clegg bonanza in the early eighties, the public services have generally seen their earnings rise less fast than those in the private sector — by just under five per cent last year compared to more than nine per cent. Even so, average gross earnings are still higher in the public than in the private sector. But generalization covers a multitude of cases. In the private sector too, manual workers have scarcely kept pace with inflation over the last five years (and in addition have been more at risk of losing their jobs altogether). Civil service pay has fallen 20 per cent behind that of other white collar workers since 1950 — but the success of the Government's efforts to whittle down numbers means that there is scope within cash limits for a rise above the ordained three per cent.

The general picture is one of widening differentials, in the public as well as in the private sector, where premiums on skill have risen, and higher profits have generated many boardroom rises. Last year's awards for top public servants, including doctors, judges and military top brass were scaled down by the Government from the recommendations of the review bodies, and delayed by its imposition of phased awards.

But they still left them in a position to build this year on salary levels between 6.5 and 7.6 per cent higher than a year before. Doctors, like policemen, have done better than almost any other group in recent years: even teachers, for all their perceived grievances, have doubled the gap between their pay and that of manual workers over the same period.

But already a more significant trend is becoming apparent: wages are beginning once again to forge ahead of productivity and of wage inflation in other industrial countries. Unit wage costs in manufacturing, which were improving at an annual rate of more than 8 per cent a year ago, were down to 2.5 per cent last autumn. The truth is that once again the cost of rising wages is holding back our recovery, in private and public sectors alike, directly or through taxation. We may be doing better than we used to, but our competitors are doing better still.

Inevitably, example and comparisons matter here. Whenever the pay of upper-echelon public servants is in question, plausible arguments can be put forward for paying well to attract candidates of the highest standard, or to minimize defections to the private sector, or to reward sacrifices made in the past. Considerations such as these have their force, and there are periods when they should predominate. But at this moment the urgency of controlling public expenditure and maintaining our international competitiveness is paramount, and should dominate the Government's thinking about its servants' pay.

LATIN TRAPS

Pope Paul VI's visit to Bogotá in 1968 was the first papal visit to America in history. Since then papal travels have become almost commonplace. Pope John Paul's visit to Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru and Trinidad will be his sixth visit to Latin America. Communications get easier and the habit of using them is acquired more quickly than international understanding is increased.

Besides their other purposes, papal pilgrimages might serve to deepen our knowledge of the social and political state of the countries visited.

We in western Europe have our prejudices: we believe that Latin America is an overwhelmingly Catholic region — over half the world's nominal Catholics — and we believe too that the Church there was until recently on the side of an indefensible status quo: many progressive European Catholics and unbelievers are admirers of "liberation theology" which they consider a Latin American innovation. The old Black Legend of the evils of Latin Catholicism and a most imperfect knowledge of the region's history and politics are mixed with a concern for the region's poor.

Latin America may contain over half the world's nominal Catholics, but the Catholic Church is far weaker there in every sense than such a vague statistic would indicate. The region was patchily catechized, it does not produce enough priests. Urbanization and concomitant secularization, both well apparent at the time of Pope Paul VI's

visit seventeen years ago, have been galloping forward since. The Catholic response has often been tardy and inaccurate and the fastest growing Churches among the Latin American urban poor are the pentecostal Protestant sects.

Not only is Latin America far less Catholic than Europeans believe, the history of Church-State relations is more complex; it is not the simple case that in the past two decades a powerful Church has abandoned an intimate alliance with the State and those who control it in favour of a new alignment with the poor. The historic enemy of the Church in Latin America was liberalism, which often dominated politics and gave the Church a bad time when it did so. There are strong liberal currents in Latin American politics that have always sought to exclude clerical influence and will continue to do so. Christian Democrat parties have not been noticeably successful in Latin America.

The three republics on the Pope's itinerary illustrate both the inaccuracy of many commonly held ideas about Latin America and, in the case of Peru particularly, acute problems that do not have simple solutions. The Church has never been particularly strong in Venezuela — at one point Antonio Guzmán Blanco even toyed with the idea of a local Church on the Anglican model headed by himself — and is not particularly strong now; the local Christian Democrats were soundly beaten in the last election. Ecuador's Church-State conflicts were par-

ticularly acute, and although the present government is conservative, the victories of anti-clerical liberalism are many and irreversible. Both republics are democracies, and though they have their problems, few of their citizens want to follow the route of their Nicaraguan neighbours. Both show that substantial social progress can be made in Latin America within the pluralist political system, though both show also that this attracts little of the rest of the world's attention.

Peru's problems are far more intractable than those of Venezuela or Ecuador. The Peruvian economy has been one of the hardest hit in all Latin America in the current cycle of debt and recession. Among the roots of its Sendero Luminoso guerrilla movement are not only the frustrated expectations of the 1968 revolution, but also Manichaean habits of thought that these fundamentalist revolutionaries share with that Christian heresy: they divide the world into good and bad, and they have no doubts about who are the good and who are the bad. Such simple certainty can in Latin America just as elsewhere lead to the most bloody confusions. Pope John Paul has distinguished between concern for human rights and "an exaggerated interest in the wide field of temporal problems" which he condemns in liberation theology. His visit to Peru will be the most testing stage of his tour, the country where an orthodox message is most needed because some are least disposed to receive it.

FOOD FOR THE SOUL

For about half a generation the fashion has been in virtually all the churches to make religion easier by gradual degrees, in the belief that unnecessary barriers stood in the way of the religious life appealing to ordinary people. Cranmer was too obscure and archaic; the Authorized Version too intimidating and remote; the Latin of the Roman rite held the people at bay; "pretty rules and regulations" were in general the scapegoat for what was in reality a profound failure of nerve on the churches' part. Rules and regulations tend towards definition and identity, as does a distinct type of internal language.

It is not surprising that these relaxations were accompanied by a so-called identity crisis in the life of institutional religion. To be more compatible with the secular culture the churches became, the more interchangeable the language of church liturgy and television soap opera, the less could they expect the strong allegiance of their members. And there was no greater symbol of this spirit of accommodation than the dropping in 1966 of the Roman Catholic rule requiring the faithful to avoid meat on Fridays.

Perhaps it seemed a good idea

at the time. It had become little more than an irritation for those who observed it, a source of mild nagging guilt for those bound by it who broke it, and the occasion of incomprehension by those not of that obedience who encountered it in others who were. Anglicans have long since forgotten that the Book of Common Prayer enjoins precisely the same observance, and have not yet noticed that the Alternative Service Book of 1980, for all its modernity, declares all the Fridays of the year with obvious exceptions to be "days of discipline and self-denial." But the Roman Catholic custom, not inaccurately abbreviated to "fish on Fridays," could not continue without some reform. It was nonsense to attach the odium of mortal sin to one humble sausage roll, if instead the tables of the faithful groaned with the weight of finely poached best salmon. It had lost the spirit of penance and mortification altogether, and had become the letter of the law which killed.

In the Roman Catholic Church, at least, this period of relaxation seems to be nearing an end. It was Pope John Paul II himself, it is said, who insisted on Friday abstinence reappearing in the new Code of Canon

Law which he promulgated in 1983. It came back in a softer version, with considerable discretion left to local hierarchies how they handled it. The three hierarchies in the British Isles seem agreed that the right approach, for the British and Irish temperament, is to present a range of penitential options from which each individual may choose. No meat on Fridays is only one possibility.

At the Pope's insistence, the Roman Catholic Church appears to have regained the courage to make demands of its members. There is a shrewd human insight behind this. People do not necessarily respect or appreciate that which is made easy for them. The spiritual life is no walk-over, but a perpetual struggle. The churches have to make it look like an exciting and worthwhile challenge, deserving of commitment and demanding, at the very least, some inconvenience. And those who follow such a course will have to dare to be a little different, prepared even to be thought a little odd. The whole idea of penance is so unfashionable as to suggest that there may indeed be some merit in it, and our culture has been impoverished by the loss of it.

Judging the Lords for ourselves

From Captain P. R. D. Kimm, RN
Sir, I was saddened but not surprised by the way in which *The Times* (and other newspapers) have reported the historic event in the House of Lords yesterday.

Taken as entertainment (which was the category in which it has been classed), of course it was a flop — and will become progressively so as the experiment proceeds.

But it was not intended to be entertainment. One has only to compare what those of us who had opportunity to watch the debate heard and saw with what we now see reported in the press to realise that a very important step has been taken in the democratic process. We, the people, now have a far greater opportunity to form our own opinions on what, in the Lords, is wise and what is not.

We are that much less dependent on the political commentator to decide what is or is not worthy of report. Henceforth he must know that his readership is in a better position to form their own perspectives and to judge his analyses accordingly.

As a classic example of an early failure to recognise this truth, the only heavy type used in your parliamentary report on yesterday's debate was devoted to the demonstration in the gallery. Yet we, the viewers, had seen for ourselves how this undemocratic incident totally failed to interrupt the democratic process.

If the press do not realise the significance of this important new dimension and react to it responsibly, they will only have themselves to blame.

Your obedient servant,
PETER KIMM,
69 New Brighton Road,
Emsworth, Hampshire.
January 24.

From Mr Patrick Ide,
Sir, Let me declare an interest. I am a theatrical, involved with presentation and production.

After watching the stimulating and informative televised presentation of the House of Lords in debate I could pay it the sincere compliment: "Can we get the touring rights?"

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK IDE,
Garwick Club,
Garwick Street, WC2.

From Lieutenant-Colonel S. P. M. Sutton (ret'd)
Sir, That's settled it. All thoughts of abolishing the House of Lords must be abandoned forthwith.

It is the House of Commons with all its vulgar ill-mannered bawling and attempts to disrupt the proceedings of the House of Lords which should be abolished.

Let's get on with it now and form a Government from the House of Lords!

Yours faithfully,
S. PETER M. SUTTON,
70 Rosehill Drive,
Bransgore,
Christchurch, Dorset.

Surrogate motherhood

From Mr and Mrs Arthur Dark
Sir, We are alone in finding the public silence of the bishops of the Church of England on the subject of surrogate motherhood an ironic and painful contrast to their willingness to comment on party political issues? The ability in certain circles to contemplate surrogacy is surely a milestone in our society's now rapid retreat from Christian values.

That we can seriously entertain the prospect of commercialising a combination of greed on the one hand and self-interest on the other, or that we are prepared to ride roughshod over the deep-seated human instincts that bind a mother to the baby her own body has produced, is surely, totally abhorrent to the Christian tradition?

This is quite apart from the consequences that could accrue if the baby is born with some physical or mental deficiency which make it unacceptable to the putative parents or that the natural mother decides not to honour the contract.

Everything about this arrangement is repugnant and, in the end, destructive of our humanity. Yet, from our bishops, who are supposed to proclaim the inherent dignity and sacredness of human nature, nothing.

No doubt we shall shortly be hearing from bishops who find some kind of good in the arrangement.

Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR DARK,
ENID DARK,
74 Breakspere Road South,
Ickenham,
Uxbridge, Middlesex.

People and places

From Mr Alec Clifton-Taylor
Sir, There is a signpost in Lincolnshire which reads New York 2, Boston 11.

Just a few miles between them!
Yours faithfully,
ALEX CLIFTON-TAYLOR,
Clareville Grove, SW7,
January 21.

Chippendale collection

From the Director of Art Galleries, City of Leeds
Sir, Nostell Priory houses one of the three pre-eminent collections of documented Chippendale furniture.

Most of which was specially ordered for the rooms in which it still stands. Furthermore, the original bills, letters and several manuscript designs survive, affording unambiguous proof that the pieces are indeed from Chippendale's workshop.

A tradesman not only equipped the state apartments but supplied furniture for servants' rooms, the kitchen and even hung wallpaper; this range greatly enhances the historic interest of Chippendale's Nostell commission. It would in fact be difficult to exaggerate the

Looking after London's homeless

From the Chairman of the Greater London Council

Sir, I have just returned from the late night/early morning "soup run" to London's increasing homeless. It is a disquieting fact that almost every night nearly 20,000 people compete for a floor space or else count their blessings on obtaining a hostel bed.

Alas, those beds, too, are becoming less and less available. I am told that in the last few months another 600 beds have disappeared in Greater London.

Of course, there are diverse reasons and causes for absolute homelessness, many and varied categories of homeless persons; there are enormous public good will and selfless voluntary and public service; but it seems to me, in the cold light of the morning, that it is worse than it was eight years ago.

Surely we can all do more to help the street alcoholic, the mentally sick and perhaps above all, the "sturdy poor" who are young and rootless.

Count Rumford's soup

From Dr D. E. C. Eversley

Sir, I was wondering how long it would take for one of your correspondents (January 17) to mention Count von Rumford, Sir Benjamin Thompson (1753-1814) was one of the greatest innovators of his time and has been almost completely neglected in Britain (except for W. J. Sparrow's *Knights of the White Eagle*, published in 1964). Harvard University Press reprinted his collected works about 15 years ago and there is an extensive German literature about his social work in Bavaria during the war years.

His only monument is to be seen, prominently, in the English Gardens in Munich, capital of the kingdom which bestowed the title of count on him. (His British knighthood dates from 1784 and recognised his services in his native North America, and as under-secretary for the colonies).

Soldier, engineer, social investigator, he is principally remembered as a scientist. He founded the Royal Institution in 1799. Given his early work on heat and energy, it is appropriate that later generations should recognise his ingenuity in devising a high-calorie cheap diet. (The word itself is of much later date: Thompson developed a "caloric theory" but without expressing a measure.)

Prescription of drugs

From Dr Michael Wilson and others

Sir, Misunderstandings appear to exist at the highest level on the true nature of the regulations being proposed to limit the range of medicines available to NHS patients.

The Chief Medical Officer, Dr D. Acheson (January 14) refers to "the final list of medicines to be retained" and the President of the Royal College of Physicians, Professor R. Hoffenberg (January 15) states "an appeal mechanism should exist through which a non-listed product might be considered for inclusion".

At a meeting with the Health Minister, Mr Kenneth Clarke, on January 10, however, we were informed for the first time that the real proposal was for a schedule to be added to the NHS regulations listing those medicines which by law would be no longer prescribable by general practitioners on the NHS.

Such a "blacklist" will fail. It will

Catholic directions

From Dr John A. H. Wylie

Sir, The feelings expressed in your columns by Father Michael Murphy (January 19), and not infrequently, by others of the Roman obedience, implying the loss of direction to Catholics, is echoed by similar confusion amongst those of like mind in the Church of England. (I mean the Church of England and not that faintly ridiculous relic of Empire, the Anglican Communion).

The rape of our liturgy, especially the outlawry of Series I, has been accepted with unseemly haste by many Anglican Catholics, largely because a high proportion of our priests are non-graduates and therefore prone to theological and liturgical illiteracy.

All but a very few bishops consecrated in recent years have, moreover, betrayed the Catholic tradition of the Church of England by, *inter alia*, espousing causes alien thereto: the use of unacceptable biblical translations and, most damaging of all, the "ordination" of women to the diaconate and sacred priesthood.

Would that his Grace of Canterbury were as valiant for Catholic truth as his Holiness John-Paul p.p. 11.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
JOHN A. H. WYLIE,
9A Portland Place,
Kemp Town,
Brighton,
Sussex,
January 19.

Round pounds

From Mr Peter Burton

Sir, One cannot help but feel that, unless the Government manages to permanently halt the downward slide of the pound, Mr Griffiths (January 19) will shortly experience as acute a sense of loss over the pound coin that many felt over the demise of the half-crown, which used to be considered the ideal up.

I remain, yours sincerely,
PETER BURTON,
1 Kingfield Court,
21 Kingfield Road,
Sheffield,
South Yorkshire,
January 19.

Oswald a solution will be found to the problem of keeping this illustrious collection intact. It would be tragic if these Chippendale masterpieces were uprooted from their original setting to aggrandise museums; such an outcome, while technically saving the treasures for the nation, would be a sad defeat, a long-stop contingency.

Although the final decision rests with Lord St Oswald and his advisers, let us hope that every effort is made to protect the Chippendale contents on what Nostell's reputation as a unique treasure house, largely rests.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER GILBERT,
(Director of Art Galleries, City of Leeds),
Temple Newsam House,
Leeds, West Yorkshire.

THE TIMES ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 26, 1978

Wherever Scots gather on January 25, the birth of Robert Burns (1759-1796), the toast will be drunk to his memory. In 1859 *The Times* reported at length the centenary celebrations including those in New York and Boston; since then rarely has a year passed without some notice in *The Times* of the anniversary.

OFFICIAL TURNS BLIND EYE FOR COMRADE BURNS

From Michael Binyon

Moscow, Jan 25

"Fair as your honest saviour face, Great chieftain o' the puddin' race", began Mrs. Margaret Barclay before plunging the proffered knife into the straining haggis.

The pipe looked on, the chef made ready for the ceremonial return to the kitchen and another Burns night began in the traditional fashion, but only a few hundred yards from the Kremlin.

Some 130 Scots flew from Glasgow yesterday to drink whisky, sing songs and link arms with fellow enthusiasts from the Soviet Burns society.

They brought with them 250 bottles of whisky, a gift from a distillery, 150lb of haggis, a rather battered Scottish song book, Sergeant Jimmy McCallum, in full pipe's regalia and assorted kilt, tartan, sporrans and gowns.

This is the fourth year that Scottish and Soviet Burns societies have met together to celebrate the anniversary. On the first occasion, in 1974, the two societies, by mutual agreement, played a lament on Lenin's mausoleum, while Soviet police looked on in astonishment.

This year it was made clear that such homage would be better given at a whisky-laying ceremony on Friday morning.

Burns is popular in Russia. His poems, according to those who understand both languages, have been translated excellently. His philosophy and spirit, romanticism and feel for the common man (and woman), are much appreciated by the Russians. What is more important, he is deemed to be in tune with Soviet ideology.

Tonight, the spirits flowed freely. They were brought into Moscow without a flicker of the customs official's eyelids. The haggis was accompanied by a proper certificate from the Food and Drug Administration, but on one end of it to inspect it.

Mr William Keith, a butcher renowned in Kirkcaldy, came to ensure his creations were properly honoured and spent this afternoon, telling Nikolai, head chef at the Intourist hotel, how to cook it.

Borscht and caviar on eggs are hardly typical Burns night dishes, but the blend reflected the participation of 150 Soviet guests (chosen by the Soviet organisers).

On Saturday, after some sightseeing, the Scots return home. The Russians will have to wait another year for whisky in such jovial quantities.

Teachers' pay

From Mr C. E. H. Wade

Sir, The senior teacher whose extensive professional commitment was analysed in *The Times* of January 18 is currently paid a salary of £13,500 per year, arguably about half his true worth.

Under the suggested restructuring, intended to reward dedication and excellence in the classroom, he would become a principal teacher with a maximum pay of just under £13,000 per year, a drop of some £500.

It is surprising that most teachers are somewhat sceptical of the new proposals?

Yours faithfully,
C. E. H. WADE (Headmaster,
Bramston School, Witham),
22 The Colliers,
Heybridge Basin,
Maldon, Essex.

'Restructured' rugby

From Mr Colin Billward

Sir, John Daniel, Headmaster of the Royal Grammar School, Guildford (January 15) wonders why talented schoolboy rugby players are lost to the game after leaving school.

Part of the problem lies in the fact that many elite young sportsmen, and particularly young rugby players, regard themselves as superstars waiting to be approached rather than themselves seeking out clubs to join. I have noticed this attitude develop in the last 10 years or so, which fits in with my belief that allegiance to one's team, club, county, country dwindles dramatically after a successful postwar era during which team spirit came first and self-satisfaction second.

The rest of the problem can be attributed to the fault in our educational system which fails to provide that vital link between school/university and the work environment; a link which, in profile format, should describe not only academic prowess, but sporting, cultural and social honours too.

This "profile" would be distributed by the school careers master to local senior clubs, who should welcome the opportunity of inviting new talent to join their clubs. From there, the climb to national representation is open to debate, but at least one player has been placed on that first vital rung.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN BILLYARD,
Apple Acre,
Hill Brow,
Liss, Hampshire.

Down to earth

From Mrs Philip Sturrock

Sir, I was recently given a sachet of bath salts bearing the following promise: "In its native jungle the gardenia perfumes the air with its exotic fragrance. These luxurious bubbles release the glamorous scent of the flower itself."

Imagine my disappointment when I read the contents: sodium carbonate, bicarbonate, sodium tripolyphosphate, anionic, non-ionic surfactants, perfume compound, colouring.

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN STURROCK,
52 Hill Street,
St Albans,
Hertfordshire,
13 January.

12, 13
Travel: On the home
front - why Britain is best;
a pilgrim in Canterbury;
In the Garden; Bridge;
Chess; prize crossword

15
Values: Designs for the
good life - present trends
and 100 of the best from
the past; Drink: The
mysteries of the Syrah

THE TIMES Saturday

18
Galleries: London stages
the first major Renoir
exhibition for 30 years;
Review: Pick of the
month's classical records

19
Films: James Mason's
last movie; Theatre: The
Government Inspector;
Critics' guide to Opera,
Rock & Jazz and Dance

JANUARY 26-FEBRUARY 1 1985 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

Notes for music makers

It may have been assembled in the spare room and probably cost only a few hundred pounds - but Peter Waymark and Martin Bronstein have discovered that a musical instrument made from a kit can be as thrilling to own and beautiful to play as the genuine article

A suburban semi in Twickenham may not be the obvious setting for fine music, but it is an ear and you may catch the intimate tones of a harpsichord as it delivers a suite by Handel or the Italian Concerto of Johann Sebastian Bach. You may be further surprised to learn that the man at the keys and the builder of the exquisite instrument are one and the same.

Jeremy Poole, in whose lounge the harpsichord proudly stands, had an unusual childhood passion. While other boys wanted to drive trains or play for Liverpool, his dream was to collect the complete range of keyboard instruments. A harpsichord picked up in a junk shop was an encouraging start but the rest, not least the harpsichord, seemed far away.

So the dream remained a dream and he developed his musical interest in other ways. He modestly calls himself a keen amateur, but was good enough to play the double bass in the National Youth Orchestra and he played it recently with a chamber group in the Queen Elizabeth Hall. Nothing to do with his job: he is an electronics engineer specializing in underwater acoustics.

The idea of building a harpsichord came while playing in a trio with a harpsichordist. Poole tried the instrument and took to it and decided he must have one. The snag was that a genuine article would cost anything from £5,000 to £10,000, as he says, a lot of money to spend on a hobby. So he set out to make one.

Useful with his hands and a fair carpenter, Poole began his quest among the advertisements in the magazine, *Early Music*. Of the several firms offering make-it-yourself musical instrument kits, John Storrs of Chichester seemed to have what he wanted: a Flemish design of the early 17th century, by the harpsichord makers, Ruckers,

with two manuals or keyboards. With VAT there was not much change from £1,500 but it was still a huge saving. The challenge was to make a pastiche that would look and sound like the real thing. On and off, it took Jeremy Poole 18 months to transform the kit of bits and pieces into a playable musical instrument.

Some of the work had already been done. Nearly all the case work - of poplar, the traditional wood of the harpsichord - had been drilled and cut; the soundboard and the bridges were pre-assembled. But that should not lull anyone into thinking it was an easy job. Poole says a fair for woodwork is essential; beyond that, patience and more patience and being in the right mood.

He was helped by attending a week's course run by Storrs. Apart from the expert tuition, this provided extra pairs of hands - essential with quick-drying modern glue - and a plentiful supply of old-fashioned wooden clamps that hold wood without damaging it. By the end of the course, the instrument was strung - steel for the upper strings, brass for the lower ones - and one register was playing.

It was the little, repetitive jobs that ate up the time. Take "voicing", the process of paring tiny shavers off the quills which pluck the strings until the best balance is achieved. There are 176 quills on the harpsichord and Jeremy Poole went through the whole lot, not once but three times. The original source of quills was the condor, now, less romantically, they are made of plastic.

And so to the painting - in many ways, says Poole, the worst operation of the lot. It is not so much the skill as the extreme care that is needed, with sanding and filling holes, applying thick primer which must then be rubbed to a glassy finish; putting on the

paint itself, without leaving brush marks; two days to dry hard, ensuring all the while that it stays clear of dust. And the final coat of varnish. It is no ordinary paint but a special recipe using traditional ingredients. From a raft of colours Poole chose grass green, partly to go with his curtains. The harpsichord was ready for the decorative trimmings. The Latin motto on the lid - *omnis spiritus laudet Dominum* (for everything that has breath, praise the Lord) -

was already there; the silk screen papers which embellish the edge of the lid had only to be glued on. But he left the gold leaf facings to an expert signwriter and also the triumphant legend across the upper manual, "Jeremy Poole, Twickenham, 1983".

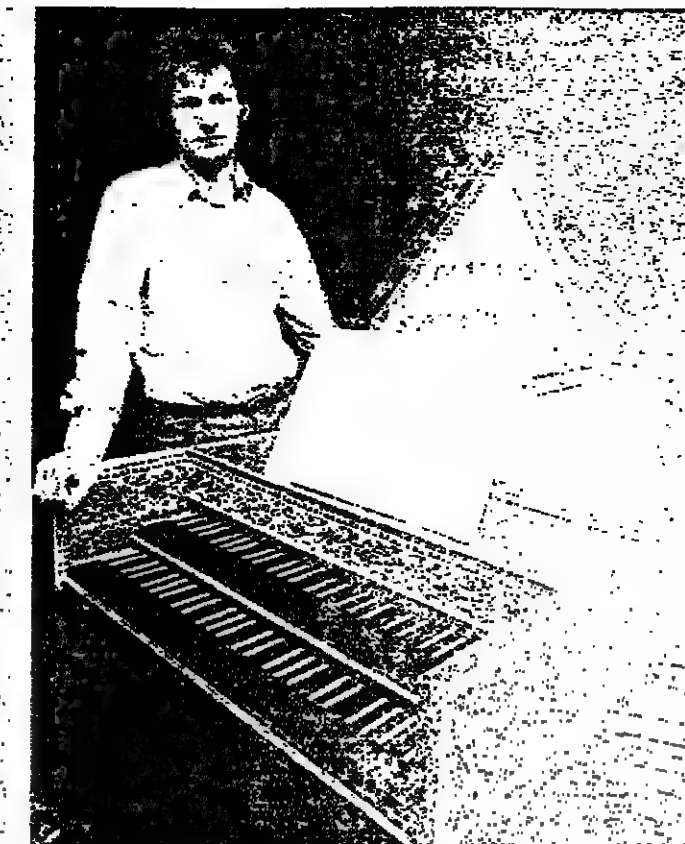
How pleased was he, as he contemplated his 18 months' hard labour? "I felt I could have done better. I made a hash of one or two things, which luckily didn't matter too much. Actually I was pleased as Punch, I

must admit. It was a big thing in my life and the end result was very heartening. I don't know whether I shall build another instrument but after this anything else should be a piece of cake."

Strangely, although the harpsichord is the most complicated and expensive instrument to build, it is the one most commonly found in dealers' catalogues. The would-be builder can choose from several models in various stages of completion. The Bolton harpi-

chord kit costs as little as £354, which includes the basic parts but not the wood which has to be bought separately and cut to size.

The widest choice of kits can probably be found at the Early Music Shop, there is one in Bradford and another in London. The instruments range from woodwinds to John Isaacs lutes and the American/French Zuckerman keyboards. Prices go from £33 for a Glastonbury pipe to nearly £3,000 for a double manual French harpi-



Kits for connoisseurs: Mimi Waitzman and Donald MacKinnon (left) with a partially assembled kit for a French double keyboard harpsichord made by Hubbard of New England, whose kits are made to very high standards after individual instruments. For the skilled woodworker, they are "challenging but not impossible". Above: Jeremy Poole and Storrs' kit harpsichord

chord. Between them the two shops sell more than 1,000 kits a year. Most are woodwinds - the crumhorn is currently popular - which comes with the parts tuned and bored, leaving the builder to drill the sound holes.

Malcolm Greenhalgh, co-owner of the London Early Music Shop, sees two distinct markets: the do-it-yourself hobbyist who wants the satisfaction of building an instrument, without necessarily being able to play it; and the musician, who cannot afford the real thing. The growth of make-it-yourself instruments has gone hand in hand with a revival of interest in "early music", roughly pre-1750.

This is because it is the older instruments that are harder to obtain, which in turn pushes up prices. There are plenty of violins around but not many harpsichords. To some extent, the growth of make-it-yourself movement has really gathered force only in the last three years, though it has pioneers in early music enthusiasts like Robert Longstaff.

His first instrument, made without plans, was an Appalachian dulcimer. He sold it for £8 and immediately started another. That was 12 years ago. Today Longstaff's workshop in the Oxfordshire countryside offers kits for 20 instruments, from a triangular dulcimer at £35, which a novice can put together in a couple of hours, to a lute-back hurdy-gurdy, which costs £425 and takes rather more time and skill.

Longstaff, who has a big student market, tries to keep his prices low though he insists

there is no skimming on materials. At the other end of the price spectrum are the Hubbard kits from New England, sold by MacKinnon and Waitzman of London, and offered in three sizes - basic kit with dimensioned parts and complete pre-cut parts. Prices start at around £2,000 and go up to £4,500 for a breathtaking "mother and child" Flemish virginal with two keyboards.

The kit firms claim there is no need to buy special tools; what they tend to underestimate is the degree of skill. Malcolm Greenhalgh echoes Jeremy Poole's point about patience and tenacity: two hours at a time may be the limit for intricate and repetitive work.

The practical requirement is ample space in which to work and somewhere to leave the partly finished job for months, even years, on end. A harpsichord is not like a Mexican set, to be packed up overnight and brought out again the next day. Jeremy Poole built his in the lounge. He says a spare bedroom would be better but he does not have one. On the other hand, he lives alone, so no one objects to the living room being turned into a workshop.

How good are these home-made instruments? Last year the Chichester Festival was short of a harpsichord for concerts by the London Mozart Players and the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields. They approached John Storrs who remembered Jeremy Poole. The Poole harpsichord was pressed into service and it must have made the right sounds because they have asked for it again this year.

On the right course for a crumhorn

Leo Stevenson translated his interest in history and the history of music into direct action when he bought an alto-crumhorn kit from the Early Music Shop. He was not altogether pleased with the result, so he bought a tenor-crumhorn kit and started to put his own touches and decorations on it. He has now built four crumhorns, a cornamuse and a Glastonbury pipe, and even the people at the Early Music Shop are impressed with his workmanship.

Although Stevenson works in the British Museum making copies of antiquities for other museums, he claims that the one skill does not help the other. "Making Byzantine horse brasses doesn't help you in making a tenor crumhorn, although I do have access to excellent advice."

All the kits have cost him under £100 and he says that, in his experience, the Early Music Shop's recommended work times are "optimistic". Alan Sheldon has got a nerve; he attempted to make a violin with a Stanley knife and a scraper. He still blushes at this approach to the noblest of instruments but has no regrets. "I've always loved the violin and when a cellist neighbour said he had some bits and pieces and some vague notes on how to make a violin, I thought I'd have a go."

Business was slack, so he had plenty of spare time between customers and the desk in his shop became his workshop. He quickly realized he needed more information and bought a book on violin-making but soon came to a point where he found he was compounding his errors. Fortunately his wife Ruth saw an advertisement for a violin-making course in Cambridge and so he took a week's holiday to attend the course, driving each day from his home in Hford.



Pipe and drum: Leo Stevenson with instruments made from kits

The instructors, Roland Gendle and Juliette Barker, were encouraging, thought he had done well considering his inexperience and helped him correct his errors. Sheldon, not rushing things, went back the following year and last November, after three years of determination, had the instrument varnished. Mr Sheldon, now aged 52, says, with some amazement: "I hadn't touched a piece of wood since I was 11. And I can't play the violin either, but my son is a violin student and he said it sounds as good as the one he bought."

How long did it take him? "How many hours in a lifetime?" Yet his nerve is still intact - he has just bought the wood to start on a second violin.



Flackey: Alan Sheldon

KIT SUPPLIERS

D. H. BOLTON
17 The Crescent, Liverpool, Merseyside, L69 3JG
Harpsichord £345; English virginal £300; Flemish virginal £250.

THE EARLY MUSIC SHOP
47 Chalfont Street, London W1
0203 1945
Lute £154; rebec £55; racket £20; crumhorns from £44; cornamuses from £35; Glastonbury pipe £22; dulcimers from £24; psalteries, bowed and plucked, from £30; bagpipes £75; hurdy-gurdy £214; bass viol £300; harp £88; guitar £22; medieval fiddle £74; cittern £115; rebec £25; pochette £25; baroque guitar £180; harps from £150; hurdy-gurdy from £175.

ROBERT LONGSTAFF
Orchard View, Appleston Road, Leamington, Warwick, CV32 3JG
(0855 620206)
Cittern £125; lute £200; psalteries from £40; dulcimers from £35; medieval fiddle £115; rebec £25; pochette £25; baroque guitar £180; harps from £150; hurdy-gurdy from £175.

MACKINNON & WAITZMAN
11 Spence Road, Forest Gate, London E7 6JH (019 1170)
Virginals from £1,990; fortepiano from £2,550; spinet from £2,650; harpsichord from £3,000.

JOHN STORRS
Silver Hill, Bramerton, Norwich, Norfolk (NR6 8EJ)
Spinets from £275; harpsichords from £1,150.

JOHN STORRS
Harrison, Chichester, West Sussex (PO14 7BB)
Chichesters from £410; spinets from £470; harpsichords from £1,070.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC
Prince Consort Road, South Kensington, London SW7 (SW7 2BS)
Technical drawings of historic instruments are included in the museum's collection of keyboard and stringed instruments and are suitable for the very ambitious and proficient. From £222, write to the curator for a list.

COURSES

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COLLEGE OF ART AND TECHNOLOGY
College Road, Cambridge (CB2 3EPT)
Violin courses run by Juliette Barker (with Roland Gendle).

LONDON COLLEGE OF FURNITURE
Department of Musical Instrument Technology, 41-71 Commercial Road, London E1 6AT (0753)
Courses in making early stringed and keyboard instruments, modern fretted, violin, piano.

ROBERT LONGSTAFF
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JOHN STORRS
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QUEEN ELIZABETH 2

Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL 1

Pilgrimage to the heart of England

As the dollar war rages, a holiday in Britain looks better value than ever. Michael Watkins visits Canterbury

Picture by Jonathan Pleyer

The *Domesday Book* - which I refuse to buy until they do it in paperback - makes pretty solid holiday reading. Well conceived, no doubt; but it's a poor yarn. Give me Chaucer any day, for then I should be led to Canterbury, along the Pilgrims' Way. "From every shire of England to Canterbury they went..." In good company, too, for I would enjoy the Wife of Bath ("who liked to laugh and chat") and the Second Nun. And it would be reassuring, hygiene being what it was in the Middle Ages, to have the Doctor of Physic along.

It is astonishing how murder in the cathedral touched the heart of England, to say little of the depth to which it pricked the conscience of the man who pleaded to be "purged" from this turbulent priest. I say "astonishing" because we were a barbarous race, accustomed to violence and gore; but Becket's slaughter was a sacrilegious crime to which tribal instincts reacted swiftly and superstitiously.

Whether we were God-fearing or merely trying to evade the evil eye, I can only guess; but even Henry was gathered into the cult's vortex, walking as barefoot penitent through Canterbury in 1174, just four years after Becket's death.



between the craftsmen and the substance they worked. Three aspects alone give truth to this: the crypt, especially the little chapel of St Gabriel with its 12th-century wall-paintings; the fan-vaulting in the lantern; the nave itself, the purest anthem in stone of man's achievement.

If visitors bend a knee in devotion at the spot where, on December 29, 1170, Thomas died, they also bow in respect before the tomb of Edward the Black Prince, knight of Crecy and of Poitiers, darling of all England. Saint and martyr, Becket's tomb was desecrated at the Dissolution, his bones reputedly thrown into the River Stour; but the sarcophagus and effigies of Henry IV and Queen Joan remain wonderfully intact, even if the monarch's marble fingers were posthumously amputated by those most Christian warriors, the Puritans - who went on to overturn the altar, tear up prayer-books, violate anything which breathed gaiety into their joyless creed.

Environment shapes our lives, if only peripherally, smoothing out the emotional rough edges. We are different, surely, those of us who dwell beneath gasometers from those who live adjacent to holiness. Show me a holy gasometer, I'll show you a miracle. Mona Green, retired deputy head of Simon Langton's Girls' Grammar School, has lived in the cathedral precinct for 43 years, remembering when German fighters machine-gunned shoppers in the High Street.

"It was a reprisal for Colosseum", she said. "They tore the heart out of Canterbury. Fire-watchers lined the cathedral roof, 'holding' incendiaries, throwing them on to the grass below. In the morning the lawns were black with carbon. My car was bombed one day. We sheltered 800 children underground, but one direct hit would have killed us all."

She is getting on now, remembering the good things more than the bad, like seeing King George VI at Thanksgiving, like watching the Pope on his historic visit. "Americans say, 'Aren't you lucky to live here?' Well, there's only one reply to that: 'Yes, we are.'"

Paul Pollak, second master at The King's School - claiming to be the oldest public school in England - said: "There's a concentration of perfection. You live in the shadow of vessels like I am don't mind. It's an island of calm; but in the battle of eternity there are lesser skirmishes; vergers complain of



Canterbury Cathedral seen from the War Memorial Gardens

guerrilla incursions by candle-thieves. "Then there's the Canterbury beyond the cathedral. When I'm in parts of the city - Christ Church Gate, Buttermarket - I'm reminded of that square in Marrakesh - the snake-charmers, Berbers down from the hills... tourists photographing them.

"There's not much difference in Canterbury. Savages come in from the surrounding hop-gardens, buskers play guitars, mouth-organs... and tourists photograph them."

Not long ago a poster outside the cathedral read: "St Augustine founded it; Chaucer wrote about it; Cromwell shot at it; Hitler bombed it; Time is destroying it; Will you give to save it?"

The money comes in; never quite enough, of course; enough to put scaffolding up, enough to restore the honey-coloured bluish to ancient masonry. While - beyond Christ Church Gate - in Mercury Lane, Longmarket, Buttery Lane, money flows into the coffers of Boots the Chemist, Rumbelows and Woolies, which all appear to do a gobbling trade.

The difference is that in Canterbury they give something back: in the cellars of Boots is a medieval well containing the clearest water you ever saw; in the K-Shoes stock-room is the entrance to a secret passage running to Queen Elizabeth's Guest Chamber; Debenham's Crypt Restaurant is part of a complex of cellars once belonging to the Chequer of Hope.

built by Prior Chilenden, in about 1395 as a dormitory to boost pilgrim traffic, which was beginning to decline. Under Clark's Bakery lies a Roman hypocaust and mosaic pavements trodden by legionaries who laid out their city of Durovernum Cantuariorum in AD 43.

The pilgrimage continues, from St Dunstan's where good Thomas More's head is interred, past the House of Agnes - believed to be the home of Agnes Wickfield in *David Copperfield* - on to the West Gate built by Simon of Sudbury. The Poor Priests' Hospital gave alms to elderly celibate clergy. Canterbury Weavers gave work to Huguenot refugees. Eastbridge Hospital of St Thomas gave shelter and

spiritual succour to the poor. So, to the Bat and Ball public house, where Men of Kent are marginally less concerned with matters theosophic than with the business of Major M.A.O.B. French Blake's retirement as president of the Kent County Cricket Club.

The Very Reverend Ian White-Thomson, Dean of Canterbury until a few years ago, scored quite well when, on February 7, 1970, *The Times* published his letter to the Editor: Sir - A few days ago I received a communication addressed to T. A. Becket Esq., care of the Dean of Canterbury. This surely must be a record in postal delays. Yours etc.

Five years earlier the Dean's diary contained the following entry on December 22, 1965: "Somerset Maugham's relatives arrived at Deanery, including Lord Glendevon and Lady G. and two Elton sons. Talked in drawing-room. Committal of ashes New Science Building and Library 10am."

"I remember," Ian White-Thomson told me, "a feeling of unease - and then of immense relief that it all went smoothly. I said to myself, 'This is like one of his own stories, with an odd twist to it.'"

Perhaps the twist can be found in Maugham's "autobiographical" *Of Human Bondage* whose hero, Philip Carey, so hated The King's School which he entered as a new boy in 1885. That Maugham-Carey are the same was never in dispute. So why should Maugham, self-declared atheist, "confidential" more than English, choose so inappropriate a burial place?

But there you are. The malachite chest containing his ashes was lowered into the ground outside the library the author himself endowed.

Christopher Marlowe was school at King's Richard Harris Barham, writer of the *Ingoldsby Legends*, was born in the same Canterbury parish as Marlowe. Joseph Conrad's bones lie in the Roman Catholic part of Canterbury Cemetery. Chaucer's story-telling pilgrims ended their journey here. Perhaps, after all, it isn't a bad place for another teller of tales to come to rest.

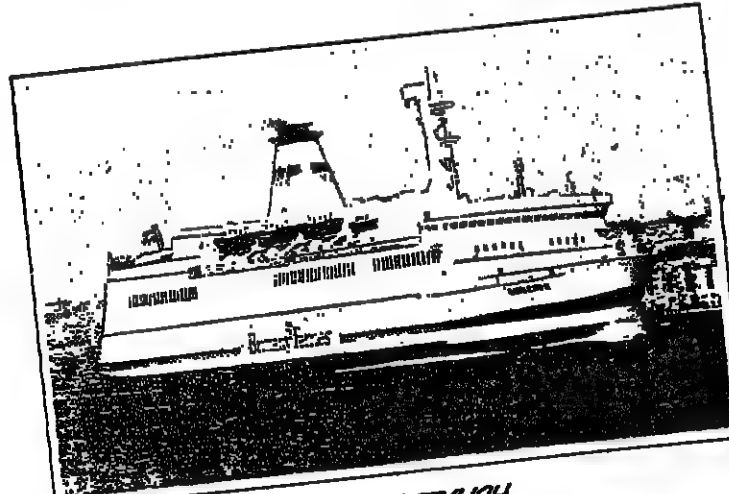
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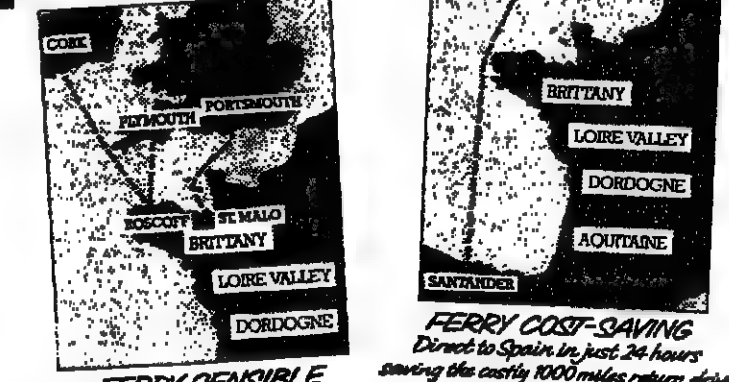
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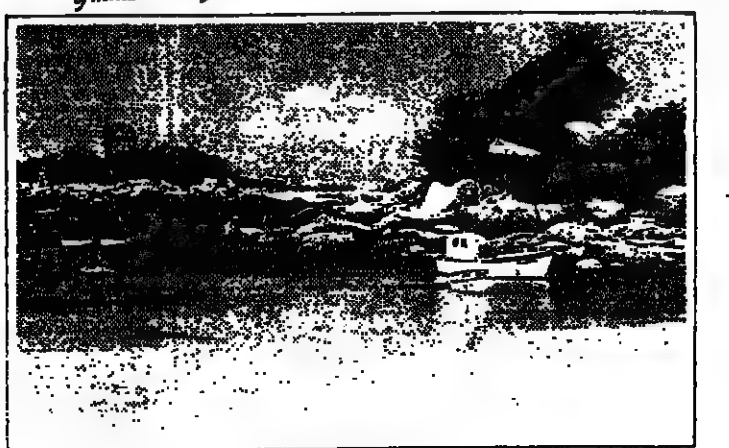
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IN THE GARDEN

Winter delights of witch-craft

Hamamelis is a delightfully attractive winter flowering genus which not only stands out from other flowering plants but is also beautifully scented. During January and February this large shrub, its leafless branches covered with unusually shaped blooms, has no equal.

Witch-hazel, to give the common name is not really demanding in conditions it likes. It needs a good soil, but if it is too rich the plant will often produce too much growth to the detriment of flower. If the soil's humus content is low, put it right before planting. Choose a well drained site and try to plant away from heavy, wet, cold clays. If you cannot, prepare a mound and plant into this. Make sure the ground is well broken up so the plant can get into the subsoil as it develops. Once well established, witch-hazel can cope with most soils.

There are many arguments, however, as to how acidic the soil should be for *Hamamelis* to be happy; the optimum pH is about six. Young plants are more susceptible to pH value, older plants can take a pH much above the ideal. Alkaline soils are not recommended and if the pH value is over seven the plants do not thrive. Adding acid peat to the planting position always helps the successful raising of this genus.

Being deciduous, witch-hazel is best planted during the dormant season. I like to get plants in during early winter or failing that, not before early March.

Aspect is important. *Hamamelis* needs sun or half shade to be at its best, and in particular, protection from cold or driving winds from the north or the south or western sides of a border or wall, but because it spreads, you need to allow plenty of room for it to grow naturally. Sometimes it can sprawl, so consider selecting



Hamamelis mollis: The sweet-smelling Chinese witch-hazel and training one of the side growths upwards to form a leader. In this case height is as important as width when choosing a site. Remember to position shrubs so they can easily be seen in the winter, but not at the rear of a border because the ground is usually wet and not suitable for tramping on when the plants are in flower.

Witch-hazel flowers are strap-shaped, about 1/2 inch long, and usually yellow but there are a few other interesting varieties. They are sweetly and strongly scented and you can be aware of a plant at some yards distance even though you did not know it was there. Flowers are formed in little clusters.

There are a number of good forms and I have my favourites. I think there is none better than *Hamamelis mollis*, the Chinese witch-hazel, whose flowers are a true yellow with a small blotch of crimson in the throat. It is probably the earliest to flower and it can be in full flower late December going well into February. The foliage of *H. pallida*, which is a pale primrose colour, makes it worth a place in the garden at

from its flowering attributes. *H. pallida* is said to be a hybrid and not a form of *H. mollis*, but this has yet to be proven.

H. x intermedia is a hybrid: a cross between *H. japonica* and *H. mollis*. The habit is intermediate between the two parents and the flower colour varies, which makes this plant worthy of inclusion in any list. The form *H. x Helena* has coppery orange flowers and is vigorous and free flowering. *H. x Feuerzauber* has flowers similar in colour but more reddish; it is sometimes called Fire Charm though not as vigorous as *H. mollis*. These forms are still classed as large shrubs. The leaves of *H. x intermedia* are a better colour in the autumn than *H. mollis*.

The Japanese witch-hazel, *H. japonica*, can also grow to the size of a small tree. Its flowers are mostly yellow but less sweetly scented than *H. mollis* or *H. x intermedia*. Free flowering, with flowers which can be better than any other form, it is probably the best choice for a straight flowering plant. Its individual petals are creased and crumpled, giving the flowers an unusual look. Of the forms of *H. japonica* I like *H. x Zuccuriana* best: its pale yellow flowers appear in late February/March, quite late for these plants. Habit is upright and ascending.

Finally, *H. virginiana*, which flowers in late autumn/early winter, must be mentioned. Its flowers are yellow and the foliage is very similar to the common hazel, *Corylus*, for which it is regularly mistaken.

Witch-hazel plants are not easy to obtain and it pays to look at the bigger nurseries such as Nurseries of Woodchester, Suffolk. Hilliers of Winchester, Hampshire. Bridgwater Nurseries, Bridgwater, Cheshire and Scotts of Merriott, Somerset. Prices vary according to the size of plant but they should be available from £20 each.

Ashley Stephenson

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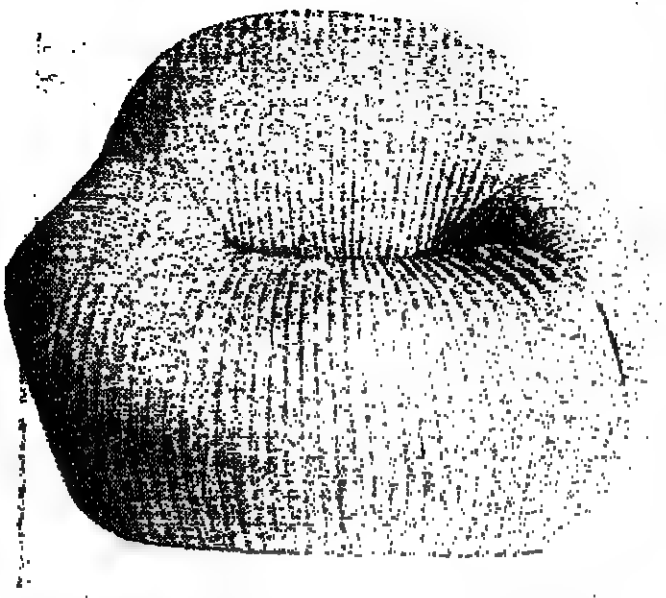
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VALUES

Designs for tomorrow's world . . .

Past, present and future come together in two exhibitions which have just opened in London. One is a visual feast of the finest that Britain can produce, the other a visual onslaught of the 100 best ever products. Beryl Downing reports



A cot that becomes a desk and a chair wearing a woolly jumper are the stars of the Design Review '85 show at the Design Centre. They are two hopeful signs that at least the fortunes of the beleaguered furniture industry may be on the turn.

The cot is one of the most innovative pieces of design in the exhibition. Called the Baby Set by Abracadabra, it is made in natural beech and the same self-assembly unit will see a child through several stages of development, first as a cot, then a junior bed, next a learning area, a first desk and finally a sofa. All this for under £90.

It has been designed by Brian Trainis, managing director of Abracadabra which markets the cot - the actual manufacturing is contracted out to British companies. Having "semi-retired" to the country from high finance and international trading, he has now found himself with a product on his hands which he is intending to market in 40 countries - he already has an initial order from Japan for 25,000.

Knowing something of the timber business, he had never been able to understand why cots were so expensive, so unsafe and so limited

in useful possibilities. So he set about changing all that.

He discovered that many accidents occur because of sliding rails and the clips that hold them, so he designed his cot with no moving parts. And when he invented other uses for the same components he tested the prototype on the best possible consumers - a group of children.

"There is nothing like sucking and seeing", he says. "We had to adapt



"A cot that is safe and strong enough for children to jump on it"

the original design because we thought the table in the learning area version would be used for drawing so we had just made it strong enough to support crayons, but when children actually played with it they used it as a spring-board. So we strengthened the fixings to make it safe enough for a six- or seven-year-old to jump up and down on it."

The other safety factor is the mattress - the only one on the

market, he believes, which is flame retardant. New legislation insists that seating for children under 11 has to be flame retardant, but some manufacturers circumvent the regulations by calling seating that does not pass the tests "teenage" furniture.

In spite of the fact that there were no specific regulations covering a seat that became a bed, Brian Trainis was determined to play safe. The special mattress does add to the cost, but the price of £89.95 is still attractive for such a versatile kit.

The brightest adult furniture in the show is the Soft Centres collection designed by Brenda Saunders in association with the Design Council and the International Wool Secretariat.

All the designs are based on everyday objects - among them an ice cream cone, a spinaker, a buttoned double-breasted tuxedo. They have an unexpected originality which will appeal to a rather small section of the conservative British furniture fanatics, but there are two chairs which would fit in with many decors - Parasol, with a spoked back and attractively blocked fabric to echo the umbrella theme and

Scallop, shaped like a shell and upholstered with a rib stitch knitted fabric.

The furniture is not yet in production, but can be made to order. Parasol will cost about £225 for an armchair, £250 for a two-seater sofa and the Scallop chair will be about £249, two-seater sofa £399, in coral or sand.

All this is good news for the furniture industry, Diana Smith, manager of the Design Centre Selection, says. Of the 1,500 products on show representing about 40 per cent of all the items submitted for approval during the year, there are 53 pieces of furniture, which she feels represents quite a breakthrough.

The other areas that are well represented in the exhibition are stationery and toys. Last year was boom time for the card industry - a record-breaking 130 million cards were sent at Christmas - and big companies are now following the example of the talented one-designer businesses and are updating their ranges by employing bright new illustrators.

British toys are always well to the fore in quality and safety,

although Sue Pile, the selection officer responsible for this area, does deplore the popularity of "character merchandising" - the latest being Thomas the Tank Engine, which simply involves another currently popular face being applied to an established toy shape and so limits developments in original design.

Leonard Peden's modern version of a traditional rocking horse, though, is quite a different kind of toy - beautifully made in attractively grained Oregon pine, it costs £125 plus £10 p.p.s. Also well worth close inspection is the kitchen designed by Lewis & Horning of Drury Lane, London WC2 - a most attractive arrangement of functional furniture, a change from the solid built-in look and yet cohesive, which not all "unfixed" kitchens achieve.

The whole point of the exhibition, of course, is to promote British design and there are, sadly, some glaring gaps - videos, luggage, microwave ovens, sports equipment, of which we import vast quantities. But there are others where British designers are beating the rest of the world at their own game - Vithberber skis, for instance, which are made in Scotland look inevitably just like

skis but they are built with a revolutionary construction which makes them faster and better and the choice of champions.

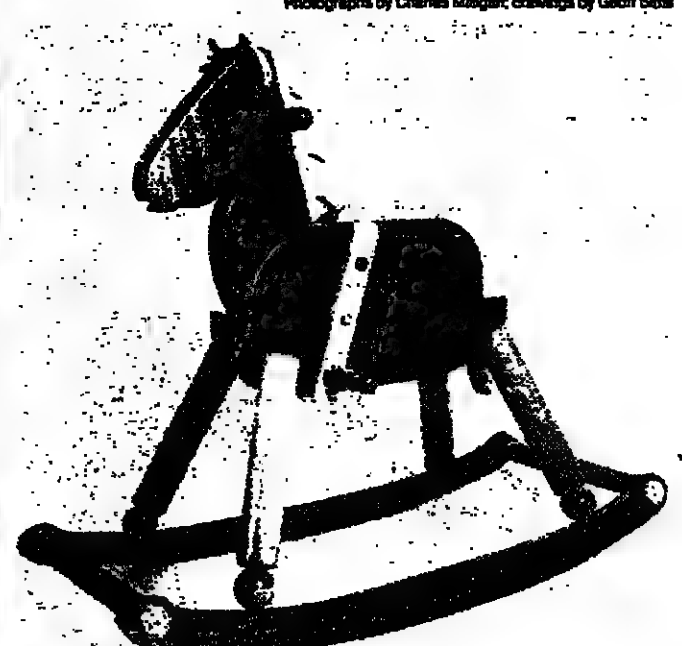
It pains me to complain about the Design Council, because I am wholeheartedly behind their aims, but having chosen such excellent products I wish they would label them properly. The descriptions of the products are all attached to the sides of the displays so you have to crane your neck, or even mount the



"Don't buy me because I'm British, but because I'm good"

stands, to see them.

That, if I may say so, is typical of the British, who design beautifully and then don't sell themselves properly. In addition, if I were an overseas or indeed any Design Centre visitor wanting to buy British, I should expect to be told who stocked what or, if the Design Council hasn't the administration to have lists of stockists for everything, at the very least someone could mark which items are available in



ROCK ON: Leonard Peden's rocking horse (above) is a modern version of the traditional toy, beautifully made in Oregon pine with a lacquered finish. At present it is available by mail order only (£125 plus £10 p.p.s.) from Timbo Toys, 7 Tobemore Road, Draperstown, Derry, Northern Ireland (0646 28186).

ALL CHANGE: The Baby Set (left) is versatile enough for any child; it has been photographed as a learning area and as a junior bed. The drawings show how it can be transformed from a play pen to a cot, to a sofa, a bed, a learning area and finally to a desk. Its overall dimensions are 32in tall, 26in deep and 46in wide and it is available by mail order only (£89.95) from Abracadabra, Fulwood House, Portsmouth Road, Petersfield, Hampshire (0730 892888).

SITTING COMFORTABLY: The Scallop chair by Brenda Saunders (far left) is from her Soft Centres collection. It is upholstered in a rib stitch knitted fabric and will cost about £249, from Fraying Furniture, Davenport Street, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire (0782 811041). Her Parasol range is available from PEL Limited, Oldbury, Warrley, West Midlands (021 552 5377). For a colour brochure, write to the International Wool Secretariat, Wool House, Carlton Gardens, London SW1 (01-830 7300).

the Centre's own shop. It would be nice if they could put this right before the exhibition ends on February 23 or before it goes to Glasgow in March.

However, almost all is forgiven thanks to the appearance of *Design Selection*, a new magazine which has been test-marketed successfully and will be appearing on bookstands nationally on March 7 and then bi-monthly, for 75p.

The intention is to show those who do not live within reach of the Design Centres in London and Glasgow a good selection of the 8,000 products which are on the Design Index. It is a glossy, colour production which will keep you up to date with all the new products which have won design approval and which don't say buy me because I'm British, but buy me because I'm good.

Design Review '85 is at the Design Centre, 28 Haymarket, London SW1 (01-839 8000) until Feb 23; Mon-Tues 10am-6pm, Wed-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 1-6pm. Then at the Scottish Design Centre, 72 St Vincent Street, Glasgow (041 221 8121) from Mar 18-Apr 13; Mon-Fri 9.30am-5pm, Sat 9am-5pm.

... and all the best from yesterday

Stephen Bayley, director of the Boilerhouse at the Victoria and Albert Museum, may be an inch or two shorter by the end of his latest exhibition. Someone could find his propensity for sticking his neck out irresistible.

He calls the new show "The Good Design Guide", and proceeds to include a pair of jeans, a beer can and a Michelin guide. No quarrel there. All excellent functional pieces. But when the exhibition is subtitled "The 100 best ever products", it is clear that an unexploded Bayley bomb is buried here and that the last thing he is expecting is an agreed definition of good design.

The Boilerhouse canvassed the opinion of their own trustees, of the Royal Designers for Industry, and of the keepers of the V&A, asking for their nominations for the best products ever made, excluding furniture.

John Mallet, keeper of ceramics at the V&A, chose four items from his collection. They are a 16th-century majolica plate, an 18th-century Wedgwood tea canister, a coronation mug designed by Eric Ravilious in 1937 and a 1962 Rosenthal service.

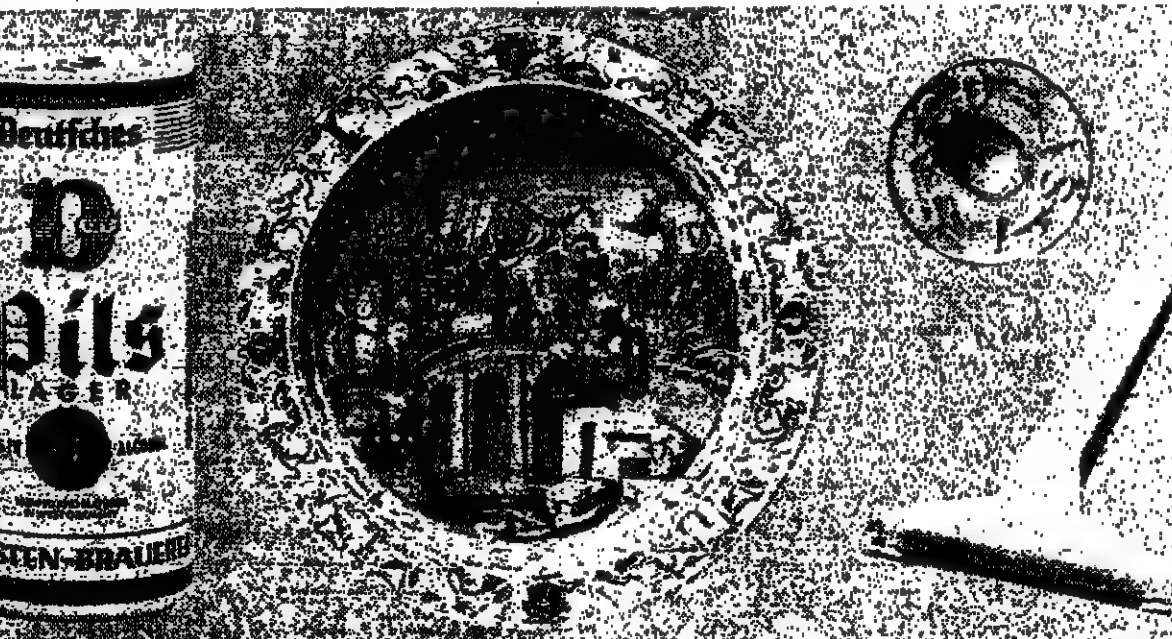
"They are not necessarily the most beautiful ceramics in the world", he says. "Some of the best pieces are often made by

people thinking with their fingers, but these all represent a strong, deliberate design element which has been worked out and planned ahead."

Nick Butler (RDI), principal of BIB Design Consultants who have specialised in product design for 17 years, approached the problem from a different angle. All the products he chose - among them the Salomon ski boots and the Olympus XA2 camera - represent innovations that changed the course of thinking in the design of the products they represent.

"Of course they are subjective", he said of his choices. "One of the good things about design is that it is a matter of personal preference. What makes one design better than another is not just the price being right, the object performing its task well, making good use of material and having a pleasing appearance. It is also a question of chemistry - whether it appeals to the market it is intended to serve. It is a question of producing an object which people recognize as being something they need and desire."

All the suggestions submitted were edited and supplemented by Boilerhouse choices - a pair of Levi Strauss jeans because the design has proved durable (the first denims were made in



Star quality: (From left) ring-top can; 16th-century majolica plate designed by Taddeo Zuccaro; Levi jeans stud; Bic razor

1850), adaptable and desirable; the Citroën 2CV for its basic geometric shapes; the Bic razor as "a perfect product of industrial culture".

"I have always been a little sceptical about the concept of good design", Stephen Bayley says. "Does it mean a successful piece of engineering, a popular commercial item, a thing of beauty?"

"The things chosen for the exhibition were widely agreed to be the best of their kind and if you are a student, designer, manufacturer or retailer you

can find something here worth emulating either for its beauty or its ingenious use of material."

It is to be hoped that the visitors do not include any display designers. The use of monstrous stained and corroded metal plinths that would not disgrace Steptoe and Son, completely overpower the exhibits they support and should not be imitated.

To be fair, the exhibition was mounted in a hurry. In December Sir Terence Conran gave the go-ahead for a new museum of

industrial design, planned for an 11-acre dockland site which he owns with Lord McAlpine of West Green and the Hon Jacob Rothschild. This three-year, multi-million pound project will be the first museum of its kind in the world and "The Good Design Guide" was slipped into the Boilerhouse schedule as a "preliminary sketch" for the ultimate ideal.

Sketching is all very well as long as you do not pretend you are showing a finished masterpiece, but with a "best-ever" tag it is difficult not to give that

impression. Maybe it's the title that is wrong: maybe the selectors should have been asked to choose a best product from each decade: maybe a little more time and a lot less rusty metal would have carried a good idea to fulfillment. As it is, the best reason for going to the Boilerhouse in the next month is to have a good argument.

The Good Design Guide is at The Boilerhouse Project, Victoria and Albert Museum, London SW7 (SW7 5TZ) until Feb 22; Mon-Thurs and Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2.30-5.30pm. Closed Fri.

SHOPFRONT

Quick on the draw

If you are a cartoon collector you are likely to suffer from a run on the pound during the next fortnight. An exhibition of work by Times cartoonist Barry Fantoni opens in Barnes on Thursday and another mixed show of drawings taken from Punch opens at the National Theatre on February 5.

The Fantoni show is a family affair. Barry's satirical work being accompanied by romantic and atmospheric watercolours of Venice and the Mediterranean by his father Peter. Prices are from £50 to £120 at the New Grafton Gallery, 49 Church Road, Barnes, London SW13 (01-748 8850). The exhibition continues until Feb 23. At the National Theatre the collection includes the composite cartoons by Bill Hewison which accompany the Punch theatre criticisms and caricatures like the one of Rowan Atkinson (right) by John Jensen, who illustrates the television column. There are some 100 original drawings, priced at about £50 each, and they will be displayed in the Terrace Entrance Foyer from February 4 to March 30.

Handy toys

Handmade toys by craftsmen from all parts of the country will be on show at the toy fair which opens tomorrow at Kensington New Town Hall, Hornton Street, London W8. It is the sixth fair organized by the British Toy Makers Guild and includes the work of 44 craftsmen, 10 of whom are new exhibitors this year.

The price range is wide - from jumping jacks, small wooden animals and traditional Noah's



Arks, collectors' dolls and soft toys from £1 to superb doll's houses built to individual specifications by Bernard Treadwell and costing up to £10,000.

The standard of craftsmanship at every price level is high. Quality has been the main aim of the Guild since it was formed in 1955. The toy fair is open from 11am to 6.30pm tomorrow and Tues, and from 10am to 5.30pm on Monday. Admission: adults £1, pensioners and children 50p; free to trade buyers.

DRINK

Musky mysteries of the spicy Syrah

I love the Syrah grape. Its deep purple-black tannic, gutsy wines have a wonderful musky, old world quality coupled with a spicy violet and tea-rose perfume that bowl me over. This does not prevent me from recognizing that the austere, cassia-like character and well-travelled charms of the Cabernet Sauvignon make it the superior grape variety, as do the plummy flavours of Burgundy's Pinot Noir wines. It's just that I will always have a soft spot for the Syrah.

Unlike other red grape varieties, the Syrah really distinguishes itself only in one small area, that of the northern Rhône, and my predilection for this grape stems primarily from a weakness for wines from this region. The historic vine-covered hill, topped by the tiny chapel of St Christopher, that chapeau de Rhône at Tain-Villaret which produces the finest and most famous Syrah wine - Hermitage.

Just over this granitic terraced hill to the north lie the gentler slopes of the Crozes-Hermitage vineyards which produce similar but softer, less majestic wines, while 15 miles south of Hermitage is Cornas. Again this is a noble, sturdy, Syrah wine that matures into a rich, fruity mouthful, superior to Crozes-Hermitage but still not quite in the same league as Hermitage. St Joseph, to the north-west of Cornas and on the other side of the River Rhône from Hermitage, is now a larger appellation and produces the lightest and fruitiest of the Rhône wines from the northern Rhône.

But it is those massive Côte Rotie wines from the extraordinarily steep "roasted slope" vineyards just south of Vienne in the extreme north of the Côtes du Rhône region that

provide the toughest competition for Hermitage. The sun-baked vines of the Côte Rotie produce wines that take years to come round and soften up but when they do they are capable, as is Hermitage, of comparison with some of the world's greatest red wines.

No one knows quite where the Syrah grape came from. Some say the Romans planted the first vines on the hill at Hermitage. Another theory claims it was the Greeks who brought the Syrah or Shiraz grape with them, from the ancient Persian city of Shiraz, and planted vines as they journeyed up the Rhône Valley from their trading post at Marseilles in about 600BC.

I rather like to think that the Greek version is true simply because the Syrah grape has a musky, old world perfumed



saddles they call it) difficult to appreciate. Apart, that is, from Penfold's Grange Hermitage, whose smoky, burnt fruit flavour is delicious (The Wine Studio, 9 Eccleston Street, London SW1, stock the '75 for £25).

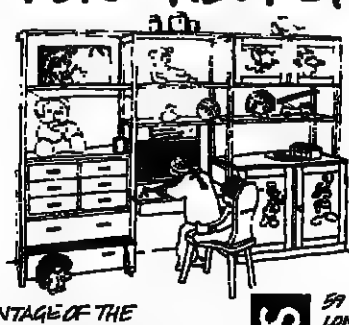
South Africa also produces big, aggressive Shiraz wines which rarely achieve the finesse of France, but Sandvliet and Fleur du Cap are the names to watch out for (Henry C. Collison, 7 Bury Street, St James's, London SW1 stock the '80 vintage of both for £3.99 and £3.69 respectively). Similarly, California's Syrah rarely reaches any French heights except for Joseph Phelps's stylish, smoky wine which is made from the real thing (La Vigneronne at 105 Old Brompton, London SW7, stock the '75 for £8.50).

Merchants who specialize in the finest French Syrahs include O W Loeb (15 Jermyn Street, London SW1), with their fine Paul Jaboulet Aîné wines, Adnams (Sole Bay Brewery, Southwold, Suffolk), with their excellent Etienne Guigal wines, among others, and Robin Yapp, of course, with his superb wines from Auguste Clape, Gérard Chave, Max Chapoutier et al.

It is hard to pick out just a handful of wines from so many good examples but at the inexpensive end you are unlikely to go wrong with the spicy '83 Syrah de l'Ardèche (Yapp Brothers, The Old Brewery, Mere, Wiltshire stock the '82 for £2.85, La Vigneronne stock the '83 for £2.89). At the other end of the scale is Paul Jaboulet Aîné's glorious rich, spicy '82 Hermitage La Chapelle - named after the famous St Christopher chapel (Adnams £7.82).

Jane MacQuitty

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STOR SHELF

The French collections

Alive and well

Sarah Jane Checkland previews the first major Renoir exhibition for 30 years

This week the fairer sex are on the move in gallery world. First, the Barbican unclashes the stays of the fashionable ladies portrayed in the James Tissot exhibition which has just closed, and packs them off to the Whitworth Gallery in Manchester, where they can be seen from next Friday.

Meanwhile, London holds its breath for Renoir and the unveiling of some of the freshest nudes ever painted. "Huge pictures of huge women," as John House, the organizer, puts it. The show, scheduled to travel on to Paris and Boston, opens at the Hayward on Wednesday.

It is high time Renoir (1841-1919) came up for reassessment. One of the most famous Impressionists, he has not been seen in a major exhibition anywhere for more than 30 years. In that time he has been loved and hated in equal measure, according to whether he is associated with *jeu de vivre* or the chocolate box trade.

"Actually, over 90 per cent is rubbish," John House says of Renoir's 6,000 extant works. Apparently the artist was a compulsive worker who never exercised any quality control. The organizers have, therefore, selected one hundred of the best. "We don't want to draw the crowds. His name was John Walker, an artist himself, and his work is being celebrated next week in two exhibitions. The first, Paintings from the *Atelier* and *Océan* Series, will be shown upstairs from Renoir at the Hayward and the second, Prints (1876-84), is at the Tate Gallery (both from Wednesday).

What results is an array of bright, sociable subjects in Renoir's distinctive, feathery brushstrokes. The walls reverberate with relaxed lunches by the river, people boating, girls playing the piano. Particularly fine are the trio of tall paintings showing couples dancing.

Clearly Renoir loved women. His paintings are eloquent sonnets to their beauty, but there is something sinister in his apparent attitude to them. Under his brush they come across as subservient, almost subhuman, reduced to subject matter over which he has complete control. "He simply

turns women into glorious vegetables," John House says. When Renoir was working at his nudes, his great friend and contemporary Monet was painting giant waterlilies in his garden at Giverny. Nowadays the house and garden is a well-manicured museum for thousands of tourists each year who do not know that the bearded artist who frequents the grounds is Monet's great-grandson, Jean-Marie Toulgout. His work can be seen from Tuesday at the Francis Kyle Gallery, in his first London showing.

Born in 1927, Toulgout tried for many years to shake off the shadow of Monet. He practised as an architect until 1956, when he gave up to the ghost and started painting. He is now married to a Monet expert and, as the exhibition shows, has let the influence of the master invade his work. It abounds with mauves and greens, yellows and reds, the colours of the garden as applied freshly and boldly. Not surprisingly, perhaps, Toulgout's works lack any real guts. Priced at around £600 each, they are a poor man's Monet.

Five years ago a certain, far-sighted, member of the Arts Council exhibition panel suggested that a Renoir show might be shown upstairs from Renoir at the Hayward and the second, Prints (1876-84), is at the Tate Gallery (both from Wednesday).

Walker, 45 years old, and currently Dean of the Victorian College of Arts in Melbourne, is a painter in the true meaning of the word. His works are abstract, the texture of the paint itself providing most impact. Often the sole compositional element can be a single monolithic shape placed in the midst of rich, swirling eddies of colour.



Ravishing Renoir: 'Dance at Bougival', one of a particularly fine trio of pictures showing couples dancing

WHERE TO SEE THE SHOWS

James Tissot can be seen at the Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester, Whitworth Park (061-273 4865) from Fri until March 17. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Thurs 10am-9pm.

Renoir and John Walker Paintings are at the Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London, SE1 (029 3144) from Wed until April 21. Mon-Wed 10am-6pm, Thurs-Sat 10am-9pm, Sun 2-5pm.

noon-6pm (closed Good Friday, April 5). Jean-Marie Toulgout is at the Francis Kyle Gallery, 9 Maddox Street, London W1 (489 5870) from Tue until Feb 28. Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 11am-5pm. John Walker: Prints (1876-84) is at the Tate Gallery, Millbank, London, SW1 (821 1315) from Wed until March 24. Mon-Sat 10am-5.50pm, Sun 2-5pm.

GALLERIES

in London and Paris

Charlotte Ellis gets a healthy dose of history at a show in honour of French spas

Everything from simple courses of mineral water to communal thermal bathing and more hygienic forms of hydrotherapy in private cubicles were included in French spa cures. In their time, curists were buried up to the neck and left to soak in salubrious salts, stripped naked and squirted with water jets or subjected to the rigours of any number of daunting devices.

All this is brought to life again at a major exhibition called "Villes d'Eaux en France" which opened in Paris last week. The show is both a monument to the pursuit of pleasure and a reminder of how painful the search for health could be.

As if spa mineral waters and muds were not enough, cures were devised to encompass all four natural elements, with the introduction of fire (in the form of heat for fomentation) and air (as various gases to be inhaled). Private cubicles provided the opportunity for treatments of a "most intimate nature", not necessarily in the least enjoyable. It takes a strong stomach to read, in the handsome exhibition catalogue, a disturbing passage from Guy de Maupassant's *Petits voyages en Auvergne* of 1883, describing a hapless patient at the non-tender mercies of a burly attendant in a catheterization chamber bristling with pipes, taps and rubber tubes.

But if the cures themselves have been dubbed a dress rehearsal for purgatory, more pleasurable pastimes were developed in the French spa

towns as well. As English spas declined as places of fashionable resort, towards the end of the 19th century, so French spas boomed. Amusements of every sort were provided in abundance: pump rooms, promenades and pleasure parks for patients were complemented by casinos, cabarets and contests housed in exotic buildings and luxury hotels with splendid interior decorations in every conceivable style.

Competition was fierce, particularly with German spas. While the Germans claimed their spa waters to be equally efficacious against all ailments, the French spas specialized: Vichy was the place for treating liver or stomach complaints and diabetes, Aix-les-Bains for rheumatism and so on.

Naturally, there were those who took a sceptical view of spas. Some saw them as places of debauchery, or thought the cures merely an excuse for an extra holiday. Others doubted the medical values of the treatments. It was suggested, for instance, that the success achieved in combating infertility in women at Luxeuil was not unconnected with the proximity to that spa of a military barracks.

French spas took on a new respectability after the First World War: they treated many wounded soldiers, as well as benefiting from a new clientele for whom a cure in Germany had become unthinkable. Spa cures were made available under the French national insurance scheme in the 1930s



Taking the waters: Apparatus used at Aix-les-Bains, as illustrated in 1841

and have remained, part of the state-subsidized medical mainstream ever since (in contrast to the British health service). Their remedial status has been further enhanced both by new therapy techniques and by a decline in the more decadent activities associated with the spa season.

The rise of new medical methods, combined with an ever-increasing emphasis on healthy outdoor pursuits, is taking its toll of earlier architectural manifestations in French spas - theatres and tea-rooms, pleasure palaces and glazed promenades, even the classically inspired *thermae* and bathing halls of oriental splendour are disappearing fast.

Villes d'Eaux en France is organized by the Institut Français d'Architecture in collaboration with the Musée National Supplément des Beaux-Arts. It is on show at the Beaux-Arts, 11, Quai Malaquais, Paris 6, until Mar 24 and is open daily (except Tues), 1-7pm. Admission 18fr (half price in certain cases).

9.30am-6.30pm, Wed 9.30am-noon. Sale Wed, 6.30pm.

OUT OF SEASON FURNITURE: Fine, livable-with English furniture comes up for sale at Christie's. A 17th-century oak cradle, a Regency mahogany library chair and a dotty late 18th-century cabinet. Christie's, 8 King Street, SW1 (839-9060). Viewing Mon to Wed 9.30am-4.30pm. Sale Thurs, 10.30am.

Auctions

TRAY MAGNIFICENT: An oval tray dating from the late or early 18th century and a good example of early paper mache is the highlight of a Christie's sale on Wed. Elegantly decorated with a gilt border of acanthus leaves and stamped "G. L. London 1785". Christie's South Kensington, 86

Brompton Road, London SW7 (881 7611). Sale Wed, 10.30am.

SCOTTISH ICONS: Paintings of Scottish scenes are combined with paintings by Scottish artists. There are also by Anselm, groups by Thorburn and trout by Rolfe. Margaret Macdonald Macintosh is represented by an Art Nouveau "Ophelia" of 1908. Christie's, 148 West Regent Street, London W1 (489 5870). Viewing Sun 10am-7pm, Mon and Tues,

9.30am-6.30pm, Wed 9.30am-noon. Sale Wed, 6.30pm.

PAINTER AS PHOTOGRAPHER: Fine, livable-with English furniture comes up for sale at Christie's. A 17th-century oak cradle, a Regency mahogany library chair and a dotty late 18th-century cabinet. Christie's, 8 King Street, SW1 (839-9060). Viewing Mon to Wed 9.30am-4.30pm. Sale Thurs, 10.30am.

Openings

PETER DE WINT (1784-1849): Bicentenary celebration of more than 80 works by the English landscape painter, contemporary of Constable and Turner. Laing Art Gallery, Highgate Place, Newcastle upon Tyne (0632 771495). Opens today, until March 10. Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-4.30pm, Sun 2.30-5.30pm. CAROLINE HILL (1935-1983): Memorial exhibition of work by fine Slade-trained painter who died last year. It includes the only portrait for which Graham Greene had sat. Browne and Darby, 19 Cork Street, London W1X 2LP (734 7884). Opens Wed, until Feb 9. Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10.30am-1pm. CAROLINE WHITE: Paintings, carvings and collages combining abstract compositions with glimpses of architectural vistas. Quinton Green Fine Art, 5/6 Cork Street, London W1 (734 9178). Opens Wed, until Feb 23. Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-12.30pm. LIGHTHOUSE: Paintings and drawings of lighthouses in England and Wales by David Smith, who spent two and a half years dedicated to this cause. Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London W8 (741 0624). Opens Fri, until March 6. Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2-5pm.

Photography

ANDREW MCKEAN 1923-1980: Open Eye Gallery, 90-92 Whitechapel, Liverpool (051-700 9460). Until Feb 23. Mon-Sat 10am-6.30pm. A retrospective for Angus McBean, the doyen of theatre portrait photographers, who is currently undergoing something of a revival. His romantic and contrived portraits, although using the language of surrealism, never seem to have fully mastered it.

FRIDAY PEOPLE: Lyric Theatre, King Street, London W6 (741 0624). Until Feb 2, Mon-Sat 10am-11pm. Like McBean, theatrical portraits are the staple diet for Roy Jones, whose work has been appearing in London's *The Standard* for the past 20 years, illustrating its arts pages.

PAINTER AS PHOTOGRAPHER: Fine, livable-with English furniture comes up for sale at Christie's. A 17th-century oak cradle, a Regency mahogany library chair and a dotty late 18th-century cabinet. Christie's, 8 King Street, SW1 (839-9060). Viewing Mon to Wed 9.30am-4.30pm. Sale Thurs, 10.30am.

Michael Young

Classical records

Stalking with Stravinsky, wrestling with Schoenberg

Stravinsky: *The Rake's Progress*. Langridge, Ramey, Pope, London Sinfonietta/Challilly. Decos 411 844-1 (three records). Schoenberg: *Moses und Aron*. Langridge, Chicago SO/Bold. Decos 414 264-1 (two records). Schoenberg: *Gurrelieder*. McCracken, Norman, Boston SO/Ozawa. Philips 412 511-2 (two compact discs).

A curious coincidence brings together what are, if not the two greatest 20th-century operas, then certainly the major operas of the century's two outstanding composers. They are also, of course, central works to the understanding of what music has been during the last 85 years. Here is Stravinsky stalking his way among the shadows of operatic history: Mozart, Verdi, and here is Schoenberg wrestling against all the odds to carve out ideas that are his alone. Both works were needed in new recordings; both recordings have much to

recommend them, even if they do not altogether outstrip their predecessors.

Riccardo Chailly's rival in *The Rake's Progress* is the composer himself, whose recording is now 20 years old but obviously a crucial document. Chailly tends to be a little slower, though there are exceptions: the "Lanterio" chorus, for instance, is given a brisk swing. The great difference from the Stravinsky version, though, is in the quality of sound, partly because of the recording, partly because of the excellent London Sinfonietta. Often Chailly is tumbler, less crisp, but there are also many delights, like the sophisticated farewell music in the first act and the splendid solo trumpet.

The recording had its origin in period interest. La Scala in 1979, when Chailly had the Sinfonietta at his disposal as well. However, the only member of that cast to survive on disc is Philip Langridge as The Rake, and his particular experience does rather show. He is the only

singer who makes Stravinsky's peculiar vocalizations seem right for the music: the others sound as if they are singing a terrible translation. He commands the odd intervals and embellishments of Stravinskian *bel canto* alone, while his tone conveys a hint of hysteria that is entirely apt.

But he is alone. Cathryn Pope as Anne produces a very pure girlish tone that fits her well for the opening pastoral idyll, but shows its limitations when she has to be more of a fighter, and more of an operatic star. Samuel Ramey makes a Shadow of disappointing ordinariness, and there is oddly little in the performances of Sarah Walker as Baba or John Dobson as Selim to suggest their experience in these roles on the stage. Indeed, there is something studio-bound about the entire recording, despite some misguided attempts to add stage noises and effects of distance. The casting of Astrid Varney as Mother Goose is another wheeze that unfortunately does not come off.

the madam's age, like everything else in this opera, ought to be an effect of artifice.

Moses und Aron, on the other hand, has to be vividly real, and Sir Georg Solti, returning to the score two decades after the Covent Garden production, makes it so. His dynamism catches the urgency of Schoenberg's vision, and streams on where Boulez is choppy in his recording. The score also sounds more sheerly beautiful than ever before in my experience: the many instrumental solos are all eloquently played by the Chicago musicians, and the textures are luminous even when complex, giving the opera a general colour of sunburst gold.

Still more importantly, there is a magnificent Aaron from, once again, Philip Langridge, whose authority makes the spokesman prophet seem much more than a wheedling time-server. It is musical authority, in that Mr Langridge is totally in control of his part and makes it appear a strand

of abundant melody throughout. And it is psychological authority in that he makes such forceful sense of his words. Given that Franz Mazura's *Moses* is a blustering *homme d'affaires*, paying scant attention to his notes and lacking weight, the final dialogue is turned very much to Aaron's advantage: he is so much more persuasive. The recordings under Boulez and Rosbaud therefore remain essential for their stronger portrayals of Moses, but in every other respect the new version is a marvel.

Another major Schoenberg work, his vast concert opera *Gurrelieder*, explodes in the brilliance of compact disc reproduction in a reissue of the recording made by Seiji Ozawa five years ago. The orchestral sound may be a little too gorgeous, but James McCracken and Jessye Norman are effective as Schoenberg's Tristan and Isolde.

Paul Griffiths



Rake's progress: Detail from David Hockney's cover design

A sprightly step forward

When compact discs were launched in this country, the emphasis of the catalogue was on sonic spectaculars, and few recordings of baroque music were among the initial releases. Now, however, there is a flood of earlier music (though as yet lamentably little Renaissance or medieval music) available in the new format, with Bach and Handel featuring particularly strongly in their tercentenary year.

Two excellent new recordings of major Bach works demonstrate the pros and cons of compact disc in this repertoire. Musica Antiqua Cologne's new version of *The Art of Fugue* is most refreshing: it can scarcely be called authentic in any sense, since the collection of fugues and canons was probably intended for a single keyboard player with an occasional duet partner. But the Cologne ensemble have transcribed them for small string group and harpsichord, and the result is a collection of sprightly, dancing demonstrations of counterpoint that are as far away from the heavy, burdened world of fugue exercise as could be imagined.

There is a great deal of airiness and light articulation in the playing, and some fugues - for example the tenth, with its scuttling scales - are scintillating. But Musica Antiqua Cologne cultivate a quite biting, edgy tone, and I found that the compact disc version, though incomparably superior in terms of atmosphere and presence, did emphasize the acid quality of the period violin playing and also made the bass line boom somewhat. For long stretches of listening to these fugues, the LP version (Archiv 413 728-1, 2 records) proved more restful but at the same time more distanced.

The immediate impact of compact disc reproduction is irresistible, however, in the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra's stunning new recording of the Brandenburg Concertos, which has immediately taken its place among my favourite

J. S. Bach (Compact Disc Edition): *Art of Fugue*, Musical Offering. Musica Antiqua Cologne D G Archiv 413 642-2 (three CDs); *Concertos* The English Concert/Pinnock 413 634-2 (three CDs); *Orchestral Works* The English Concert/Pinnock 413 600-2 (three CDs); *Concerto for Harnischord Works* Ton Koopman, Trevor Pinnock 413 638-2 (three CDs); *St Matthew Passion* 413 613-2 (three CDs); *St John Passion* 413 614-2 (three CDs); *Christmas Oratorio* 413 625-2 (three CDs); *Cantatas* 413 646-2 (three CDs), soloists, Munich Bach Choir and Orchestra/Karl Richter. J. S. Bach: *Brandenburg Concertos* Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra/Ton Koopman Erato from Conifer ECD 88054-5 (two CDs available separately). Handel: *Messiah* Nelson, Kirby, Watkinson, Elliott, Thomas, Christ Church Choir, Academy of Ancient Music/Hogwood Oiseau-Lyre Florilegium 411 856-2 (three CDs). Haydn: *Symphonies Nos 100 and 104* Academy of Ancient Music/Hogwood, Oiseau-Lyre Florilegium 411 853-2.

versions of these too-often-recorded pieces. Ton Koopman's pulsating, driving direction is most evident in the Fifth Concerto, where he plays the great harpsichord cadenza like a man possessed, and the exquisite playing of Wilbert Hazelzet, partnered by Roy Goodman's sharp violin playing, is a delight. The nearest old-instrument rival to this version is Pinnock's on Archiv (now also available on compact disc), but though Pinnock has the edge on sophistication in the horn playing in No 1 and the trumpet playing in No 2, the recording begins to sound bland and regularized beside Koopman's passion.

The Third Concerto is especially successful on compact disc; the feeling of being actually inside the orchestra (which I confess I find less than enthralling in Stravinsky or

Mahler) is here exhilarating as the thematic fragments are thrown around between the nine soloists. Koopman's slow movement is (I guess) a real, idiomatic improvisation, and the finale is exhaustingly active. Archiv have demonstrated their commitment to baroque music on compact disc by issuing the new Art of Fugue as part of a large Bach Compact Disc edition, in eight boxes, available separately. There is a most recommendable box of Concertos from Pinnock and the English Concert (the multiple harpsichord concertos dazzlingly alive in the new medium) and a box which brings together Pinnock's harpsichord recordings with Ton Koopman's controversial organ recordings (which again acquire a vivid extra dimension on compact disc, though the loudest sounds are very shrill).

The remainder of the Archiv collection is made up of very old, albeit sturdy, recordings by Karl Richter: his second account of the St Matthew Passion, his St John Passion, and his Christmas Oratorio - the latter still sounding very lively after 20 years, though the solos are more depressingly overweight than the choruses.

There is already more than one Handel *Messiah* on compact disc; alongside Hogwood's on Decca and Gardiner's on Philips comes Koopman on Erato. But this is an odd mixture of plangent orchestral sounds with a sweet, even effete English choir (The Sixteen), and I continue to prefer Hogwood's use of the Christ Church Oxford boys' choir, which comes up sounding very fresh and agile on compact disc.

The coupling of Haydn's "Military" and "London" symphonies is a great success, and the slow movement of No 104 in particular - full of the most hard-hitting contrasts and exquisite sonorities - is a great step forward in period-instrument classical performance.

Nicholas Kenyon



Careful composition: Bach (top) and Mussorgsky

An important recording of a major, if still incidental, part of Beethoven's oeuvre gives a resonant start to the song-collectors' new year. Beethoven's songs move from the deep seriousness and the lofty elation of the Six Gellert Songs to the intimate lyric sentiment of, for instance, the tiny strophic "Ruf vom Berge".

Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau has the measure of them all. Not only is his voice in strong command of a wide range of vocal writing, his characteristically close verbal response is deep-seated in a wise understanding of the composer. This is particularly illuminating when listening to the set as a whole. I was delighted by the way he makes one long, joyous thought of Goethe's "Mädel" and brings fresh charm and vigour to "An die ferne Geliebte" in an unusually light-handed, totally unselfish performance. Half the pleasure of another treat,

Gounod's *Romeo et Juliette* has long been an opera to invite easy scoffing, mainly from those who know it none too well, just as the same fate has befallen Bellini's opera on Shakespeare's lovers, *I Capuleti ed i Montecchi*. But all that is needed to send the scoffers away, with their communal tail between their legs, is a really good performance. Muti achieved that for Bellini at Covent Garden last season and the results should be heard on HMV later this year. Now, also on HMV, Michel Plisson does the same for Gounod.

Plisson and his Toulouse forces have been quietly building up a first-rate reputation and gathering around them a group of stylish and idiomatic singers. Most of the artists in last year's highly successful version of Massenet's *Manon* are back here in *Romeo*: Kraus, Quilico, Van Dam, Burles. Only the soprano, Catherine Malitano, is new to the fold and she makes a very creditable attempt to lighten her voice and flick it with a silvery girlish quality for Juliette. There are occasional lapses into womanly maturity, but she pips out the opening

Sounds: *Romeo et Juliette* Malitano, Kraus, Van Dam, Toulouse Orch/Plisson, HMV EX 157 27 01423 (three records). Mussorgsky: Boris Godunov. Vladimir Alexandrov, Arkhipova, USSR TV Orch/Fedoseyev, Philips 412 281-1 PHA (four records) CD 412 281-2 (three CDs).

Waltz Song "Je veux vivre" and is outstanding in the duet in the underground crypt. Both Gounod and Bellini believed in giving the dying lovers an extended farewell, much to the horror of Shakespearean purists.

The juiciest part in the opera, though, goes to the tenor and Alfredo Kraus once again throws off his years through some vocal legendmain and presents an ardent, even heroic *Romeo*. He is courtly in the Act I madrigal, a properly formal number as Romeo and Juliet first clap eyes on each other, and suavely passionate at the close. But Act II is musically the best of the five and Kraus's handling of the *cavatina* "Ah! leve-toi, sois en amour" is enough to show why Björling and Thill savoured this role. I have fond memories too of Corelli on EMI's earlier recording of the

opera (1949), although his French would not have passed muster even on the Marseilles waterfront. Gounod concentrated all his best music on the lovers and the orchestra shames associated with them. But José Van Dam makes something out of the dull role of Frère Laurent; Gabriel Bacquier, a few gruff sounds apart, is a rightly sententious Comte Capulet; and Gino Quilico the most mercurial of Mercutio. Plisson conducts as adroitly as ever, taking particular delight in the Act I mazurka.

Whether the mazurka was in fashion in 15th-century Verona is open to question, but it was certainly more than acceptable in Sandomir, close to the Russo-Polish border, in *Boris Godunov*. Mussorgsky's opera, in what can be dubbed "the David Lloyd Jones version" - in other words, no Rimsky additions - arrives from Philips on what is the first opera disc on CD I have heard from the Soviet Union. The sound is decent, without being special: the bells in the Kremlin ring out with jangling harshness at Boris's coronation and the choruses are well handled, but the USSR TV Orchestra,

conducted with fervour by Vladimir Fedoseyev, is consistently too far back.

The Polish scenes are the most impressive on this set, which began life as a radio transmission and has taken many years to transfer to black disc and CD. Yuri Mazurok and Irina Arkhipova, familiar artists in the West, show just how Rangoni and Merina should be sung and so rarely are. Vladimir Plavko's tenor is stretched at the top by Dimitri's music, but the character is all there. The supporting roles range from the excellent (Andrei Sokolov's Shuisky) to the totally unacceptable (Glafora Koroleva's Feodor). The main question, though, will be over Alexander Fedorukov in the title role: his grainy-voiced imperiousness, but all too often with grating tone, always putting on a "show". At times he makes Christoff sound positively restrained.

In brief, A recommendation for Rossini's *Faust* *messe solenne*. Philips on CD (also black disc and cassette) have cast it strongly, with Ricciarelli outstanding.

John Higgins

From the lofty to the lyrical

Beethoven: *Lieder*. Fischer-Dieskau H&R. EMI EX 157 2700423 (three records). Ravel: *Melodies*. Various artists. EMI EX 165 2701393 (three records). Berlioz: *Les Nuits d'été*. Frederica von Stade/Boston SO/Ozawa. CBS IM 39098. Shakespeare's Kingdom Sarah Walker/Graham Johnson. Hyperion A65136.

Ravel's *Melodies*, is its shrewd casting. Six of the Gallic best are given a side each, with one major work and a handful of comparative rarities. So Teresa Berganza bristles with veiled and not so veiled sensuality in *Shéhérazade*; Mady Mesleil is ingenuously naive with bright open vowels in the Greek Folk Song *Felicité*; Loti is tender and sophisticated in *Maître et servante*; and above all, Jessye Norman makes dark, translucent

chamber music of the *Chansons madécasses*. The male contributions are just slightly less distinguished: José Van Dam's *Don Quichotte* and Gabriel Bacquier's *Histoires naturelles* are a little dry. But with accompaniments of the highest calibre (Denton Baldwin and orchestras from Toulouse and Paris under Michel Plisson), the set is irresistible.

Still more for the Francophile, Frederica von Stade's *Nuits d'été* with the Boston Symphony Orchestra is a luxury version: everything is subordinated to the creation of a rich, languid legato. In "Spectre" the voice is a clarinet among clarinets; in "Absence" vocal and instrumental phrasing seem indivisible; between them they create an almost narcotic

effect. For all the voice's beauty and intelligence, I miss a sharpness of instrumental definition and an immediacy of emotional engagement. I for its on overpriced coupling, Debussy's *Damoiselle élue*, with a notable narrator in Susanne Mentzer.

The minute tuning of Berlioz's ear to the text in hand is nicely revealed in Sarah Walker's performance of his poignant cantata *La mort d'Ophélie*, in an ingeniously built, affectionately detailed recreation of music from Shakespeare's *Kingdom*. Saint-Saëns's more luridly coloured version makes a telling juxtaposition; most rewarding of all are the alternating Brahms and Strauss settings of the *Ophelia* songs. The record is completed with songs by Elgar, Parry, Britten, and Poulenc's exquisite "Fancy". Hilary Finch

Wayman
Sh
PETER DE WINT (1784-1849): Bicentenary celebration of more than 80 works by the English landscape painter, contemporary of Constable and Turner. Laing Art Gallery, Highgate Place, Newcastle upon Tyne (0632 771495). Opens today, until March 10. Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-4.30pm, Sun 2.30-5.30pm. CAROLINE HILL (1935-1983): Memorial exhibition of work by fine Slade-trained painter who died last year. It includes the only portrait for which Graham Greene had sat. Browne and Darby, 19 Cork Street, London W1X 2LP (734 7884). Opens Wed, until Feb 9. Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10.30am-1pm. CAROLINE WHITE: Paintings, carvings and collages combining abstract compositions with glimpses of architectural vistas. Quinton Green Fine Art, 5/6 Cork Street, London W1 (734 9178). Opens Wed, until Feb 23. Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-12.30pm. LIGHTHOUSE: Paintings and drawings of lighthouses in England and Wales by David Smith, who spent two and a half years dedicated to this cause. Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London W8 (741 0624). Opens Fri, until March 6. Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2-5pm.

ANDREW MCKEAN 1923-1980: Open Eye Gallery, 90-92 Whitechapel, Liverpool (051-700 9460). Until Feb 23. Mon-Sat 10am-6.30pm. A retrospective for Angus McBean, the doyen of theatre portrait photographers, who is currently undergoing something of a revival. His romantic and contrived portraits, although using the language of surrealism, never seem to have fully mastered it.

FRIDAY PEOPLE: Lyric Theatre, King Street, London W6 (741 0624). Until Feb 2, Mon-Sat 10am-11pm. Like McBean, theatrical portraits are the staple diet for Roy Jones, whose work has been appearing in London's *The Standard* for the past 20 years, illustrating its arts pages.

PAINTER AS PHOTOGRAPHER: Fine, livable-with English furniture comes up for sale at Christie's. A 17th-century oak cradle, a Regency mahogany library chair and a dotty late 18th-century cabinet. Christie's, 8 King Street, SW1 (839-9060). Viewing Mon to Wed 9.30am-4.30pm. Sale Thurs, 10.30am.

THE OPERA HOUSE, Glasgow 10

From the new production of *The Rake's Progress* by David Hockney's cover design. The opera is a collaboration between the composer and the artist, and is a masterpiece of modern opera. It is a story of a young man who is seduced by a woman and ends up in an asylum. The opera is a collaboration between the composer and the artist, and is a masterpiece of modern opera. It is a story of a young man who is seduced by a woman and ends up in an asylum.

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Shooting pains

James Mason's last two performances before he died in 1984 will rank among his finest: as Graham Greene's *Doctor Fischer of Geneva*, shown recently on television, and in the cinema film *The Shooting Party*, which opens on Friday.

The current estimate of Mason as one of our most gifted and sensitive screen actors would not have been made 10 or 15 years ago when he seemed to be bogged down in a succession of routine movies that did little to demonstrate his talent.

He had made his name as the man-you-love-to-hate in the Gainsborough melodrama of the 1940s, sealed his reputation playing the dying IRA gunman in *Odd Man Out* and after a well publicized row with the British film industry left to seek a new career in Hollywood.

For a long time he seemed to have lost his way, with only occasional glimpses - in the remake of *A Star is Born* with Judy Garland, as Humbert Humbert in *Lolita* - of his quality. And yet the quality was there all the time, in the fundamental intelligence, the prising out of a character, the beautifully modulated voice.

In *The Shooting Party* he plays Sir Randolph Nettlesby, a wealthy landowner whose time is passing. The performance, given poignancy by Mason's death, is a study in melancholy: he is an old man looking back on a way of life that is doomed.

It is 1913 and the First World War is only months away.

Presiding over a pheasant shoot on his country estate, the mood reflected in autumn tints, Sir Randolph, at least, has no illusions. That same cannot be said for his guests as they wine and dine and gossip and indulge in mild affairs. And yet there is a feeling of premonition, as if, deep down, people can see the coming slaughter in the Flanders trenches.

Adapted from Isobel Colegate's novel and directed by

Alan Bridges, *The Shooting Party* inevitably recalls another portrait of an aristocratic society on the verge of disintegration, *La Règle du Jeu*. But to stand any film against Jean Renoir's masterpiece, even one conscientiously made as *The Shooting Party*, would be grossly unfair.

It is enough to indicate some of *The Shooting Party*'s qualities: the fidelity to source and to period; and the enjoyment of a raft of seasoned British actors, of which Mason is only one, at the top of their form. There is Edward Fox, the unbending representative of traditional values.

There is Robert Hardy, an actor apt to overdo things but here in perfect control as another out of his time, decent, honest, naive. Among the outsiders, characters on the fringe of the shoot but destined to be affected by it, is a crisply executed portrait of a thatched-roofed poacher by Gordon Jackson.

John Gielgud has done so many film cameos in recent years that one has tended to merge into the next. His amiable anarchist in *The Shooting Party* is, however, likely to stand apart; a brief scene with Mason, in which two men of different outlook find common ground, is a gem.

The Shooting Party (cert 15) opens in London on Fri at the Curzon (459 3737).



Endangered species: Aristocracy at bay in *The Shooting Party* with Edward Fox, Cheryl Campbell and (left) James Mason

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
Covent Garden (240 1066)
A revival of Visconti's *La Traviata* after four years' absence, has Illeana Combaras in the title role, Neri Shicoff in his first Covent Garden role, and Norman Bailey as the older Germont. Sir Colin Davis conducts the opera for the first time at this venue. The six performances scheduled to replace the postponed *Manon* begin on Tues at 7.30pm, with a further one this week on Fri also.

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (838 3161)
Tonight at 8pm is the opening of *Die Fledermaus*, a production for ENO of *Tristan* is the director's first job for this company, and with veteran Wagnerian Reginald Goodall in the pit it should be quite a night. Johanna Meier and Alberto Renedos are joined by John Tomlinson as King Marke, and the transition is by Andrew Porter. A further performance this week on Wed at 8pm. On Thurs (7.30pm), another chance to see Jonathan Miller's famed *Rigoletto*, still with John Pimm and Valerie Maestri; and on Fri, *Tosca* (7.30pm) is back for one last performance this season.

OPERA FACTORY
For once, Opera Factory's now definitive production of Harrison Birtwistle's *Punch and Judy* will not play to London audiences, but is touring Coventry, Manchester, Bracknell and Bristol. Tonight and tomorrow at 7.30pm David Freeman's savagely beautiful production of this disturbing work visits Manchester's Royal Northern College of Music. (061 273 4504). The show, familiar and excellent cast is led by Omar Ebrahim and Hilary Western and the Endymion Ensemble is conducted by Howard Williams. On Wed and Thurs (7.30pm) the company reaches the Wildcat Theatre of South Hill Park Arts Centre, Bracknell (0344 484123) before the last stop next weekend (Fri and Sat at 8pm) at the Arnold Theatre, Bristol (0272 25991).

SCOTTISH OPERA
Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041 331 1294)
A rest from the new production of *Capriccio*, for a week of Smetana's *The Bartered Bride* in David Pountney's lively production, with John Treleaven and Marie Siorach as Jenik and Marinka. Performances this afternoon at 2.15pm and on Tues and Thurs at 7.15pm. There will be three special schools' performances, adapted and presented by William MacCue, on Mon, Wed and Sat at 2.15pm. All these performances, which are open to the public, have no interval and last for just 1 hour 20 minutes.

OPERA 80
This energetic young company is on the move again after their Christmas break. They arrive on Mon-Sat Southend (Civic Pavilion 0702 351155) for their glittery update of Rossini's *Italian Girl in Algiers* and on Tues for their rather heavy-handed Verdi *Masked Ball* (both performances at 7.30pm). Strong vocal and orchestral performances make it well worth a ticket for both. The company moves on to Ipswich (Corn Exchange 0473 215544) with *Italian* on Thurs and Feb 2, and *Masked Ball* on Fri.

CO-OPERA
Jeanette Schreane, Theobald's Road, London WC1 (388 1394)
Last night of Gies Swayne's first opera *Le Nozze di Cherubino* which he will conduct from the harpsichord at 7.30pm.

THEATRE

Character of corruption

Jim Broadbent plays the Mayor in Gogol's *The Government Inspector*, which opens at the Olivier Theatre next week. He is very much a National Theatre player, having recently been in the cast of that other National Theatre... of Brent.

Although this will be his first appearance at the Olivier, he was the first actor on stage at the Cottesloe when he played a multitude of parts in the science fiction work, *The Illuminatus*. He must have felt at home, since Brent productions reduce masterpieces to a manageable length and employ two or three actors to play all the roles.

The change of scale in moving to the Olivier may be considerable, but as an actor with a wide range of work behind him, including film and television, he has had little difficulty in making the transition. The National Theatre of Brent is in the school of "broad" acting, with eccentric characters who are likely to address the audience directly. Gogol's comedy of mistaken identity also has its "broad", larger than life characters.

Khrushchev, a clerk, is played by Rik Mayall, a star of BBC television's *The Young Ones*, which he co-writes. He arrives in a small Russian town, steeped in corruption and bureaucracy, and is mistaken for a government inspector. The mayor and his officials realize the mayor's daughter before the mistaken identity is discovered.

Broadbent is happy with his casting. "I am a character actor and like playing extreme characters, weak or violent. This is a very theatrical piece. The basis has to be true, and

once that is accepted the characters can become grotesque."

Having read a biography of Gogol to prepare himself, Broadbent says he was "quite batty, but a genius". *The Government Inspector* is a very shrewd piece about corruption, and it became a cult work. Gogol then disowned it and sold the rights, furious because he thought audiences were not appreciating it in the right way.

The Government Inspector is directed by Richard Eyre, his first production for the National Theatre since his year of bumper successes in 1982 when he directed *Gogol and Dolly*, *The Beggar's Opera* and *Schnepp in the Second World War*.

Reopening in London is the Hull Truck Theatre company, with *Up 'N' Under*, a comedy about a team of amateur rugby league no-hopers, which won the Edinburgh Fringe first award and the Olivier award for the best comedy of 1984.

The cast of six in John Godber's play must be extremely athletic: a judo expert, an English rugby union triathlete, a goalkeeper and a marathon runner, play a rugby match on stage.

Up 'N' Under, which had six performances at the Donmar Warehouse last autumn, returns next Monday with another play by Godber, *Boanerges*, set in a nightclub disco.

Christopher Warman

The Government Inspector opens at the Olivier Theatre (928 2252) on Thurs at 7pm. Previews tonight and Mon-Wed at 7.15pm. In repertory, *Up 'N' Under* and *Boanerges* opens at Donmar Warehouse (836 3026) on Mon at 7.30pm. Until Feb 23, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm.

A SUMMER'S DAY: British premiere of the latest work by Polish dramatist Slawomir Mrozek, described as "a philosophical comedy about the follies of human aspiration and achievement". Directed by Peter McAlister, who has worked extensively in Poland, with Philip Voss, Jonathan Hackett and Linda Marlowe. Polish Theatre, 238 King Street, London W6 (741 0358). Opens Tues at 7pm, then until Feb 10, Wed-Sun at 7.30pm.

In Preview

BETTER TIMES: A version of the 1921 dispute between the Government and 30 councillors of Poplar, East London, who refused to levy a rate they considered unjust and were therefore sent to prison. Theatre Royal Stratford East, London E15 (534 0310). Opens Thurs, Fri, Feb 2, at 8pm, opens Feb 4 at 7.30pm. Until Mar 2, Mon-Sat at 8pm.

Openings

A MINUTE TOO LATE: Part of the International Mime Festival, this show by the three-man Theatre de Complicité (Belgian/Italian/English) does not conform to the usually accepted rules of time and is more of a conventional theatre piece. An examination of attitudes, rituals and behaviour surrounding death. ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (930 3647). Opens Tues at 8pm, until Feb 2, Tues-Sat at 8pm.

ROCK & JAZZ

CHAKA KHAN
Tonight, Hexagon Theatre, Reading (0734 591521). Mon to Wed, Hammermith Odeon, Queen Caroline Street, London W6 (748 4081). Thurs, Poole Arts Centre (0202 585222).
The new pop singer has made its novelty into rock and accounted for about 90 per cent of the appeal of "I Feel For You". Otherwise an unexceptional vehicle for the fluent but unoriginal style of a soul singer for whom Artha's fallen crown will be forever out of reach. On *Top of the Pops* this week she seemed to be doing an impersonation of Bertice Irmiting Tina Turner imitating Prince.

DEREK BAILEY/KEITH TIPPETT
Today, Bethnal Green Music Library, Mayfield House, Cambridge Heath Road, London E2 (enquiries: 585 6904). In prospect, a highly volatile combination. Tippett's exploration of the piano's physical properties - the twang of wire, the echo of a vast wooden box - reflects Bailey's off-centre vision of the guitar. This is an afternoon concert, starting at 2.30pm.

SHALAMAR
Tues, Edinburgh Playhouse (031 557 2591); Wed, Newcastle City Hall (0632 612606); Thurs, Southampton Theatre (0704 40404); Fri, Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham (0602 472328). Only Howard Hewitt remains of the trio which, with "Take That To The Bank", "Full of Fire" and "Over And Over", briefly became the popular favourites of Britain's soul fans a few seasons back. However,

since Hewitt has always been the group's creative misfiring the end may not yet be in sight.

DOLLAR BRAND/JOHN McLAUGHLIN
Tonight, Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (585 8212). Brand, the great South African pianist, leads the small group called Skaya which performed so satisfyingly on the South Bank last year, while McLaughlin matches his guitar with that of Paco de Lucía, the Spanish virtuoso.

CHICO FREEMAN
Tonight and Mon to Sat, Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Fifth Street, London W1 (438 0747). A new comedy ballet, *Tom Dick and Harry*, by Nan Sheridan, is given today with Janet Smith's *Another Man Drowning*. Christopher Bruce's *Holiday Sketches* and Robert North's *Stravinsky Miniatures*. This last is repeated next week with Gill Clarke's *Rum and Coca-Cola* and Smith's *Signs of Another Sun*.

NEW ORDER
Tomorrow, Tiffany's, Leeds (0532 431448); Mon, Sobell Centre,

Honeywell Road, London N1 (533 7041).

Probably the ultimate refinement of the movement begun by the Velvet Underground's Lou Reed and John Cale almost 20 years ago; perhaps, too, the last word in intellectual disco music.

A CERTAIN RATIO
Tomorrow, Spring Street Theatre, Hull (0482 23535). Their awesomely stylish graphic design notwithstanding, it has been a while since A Certain Ratio's records lived up to the band's early



Selfish sparkler: Chaka Khan continues to tear the country

promise. The current coupling of "Life's a Scream" and "There's Only This" is a typical tease.

BLUES REUNION
Mon, Half Moon, 33 Lower Richmond Road, London SW15 (788 2387). Spencer Davis and his former drummer, Pete York, encounter the organist Brian Auger, once a colleague of Rod Stewart and Julie Driscoll, in a quartet completed by the bass guitarist Colin Hodgkinson.

TERRY JENKINS
Wed, Bass Clef, 35 Coronet Street, London N1 (729 2478). James Last's drummer uses his time off to lead a very sharp 10-piece band, with appealing mainstream-modern arrangements and a corps of high class soloists, including Henry Lowther (trumpet) and Peter King (alto saxophone).

LEE PERRY
Thurs, Gingsville, Camden Lock, Chalk Farm Road, London NW1 (257 4967). In his prime, Perry was the most imaginative of Jamaica's record producers, particularly in his work over the years with Bob Marley. Sometimes the victim of a lack of discipline, his creativity can still catch fire.

ARILD ANDERSEN
Thurs, Third Eye Centre, Glasgow (041 332 7521); Fri, Queen's Hall, Edinburgh (031 668 2117). Flying the flag for the ECM label's brand of cool chamber jazz, this all-Scandinavian quartet features the drumming of Jon Christensen, one of Keith Jarrett's preferred partners.

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DANCE

ROYAL BALLET
Covent Garden (240 1066). Today and Wed at 8pm, Thurs at 7.30pm. Gennadi Rozhdestvensky conducts the last two performances of the new *Nutcracker*, with Lesley Collier and Anthony Dowell dancing tonight. Bryony Brind and Derek Deane, Wed. *Cherubino* (Thurs) has Wendy Ellis and Stephen Jeffries in the leads.

EXTEMPORARY DANCE
Show Theatre, 100 Euston Road, London WC1 (388 1394). Today at 7.30pm. Tonight's closing programme of the company's London season includes a guest appearance of London Youth Dance Theatre.

JANET SMITH
Watford, Palace Theatre (52 25671). Today at 3 and 8pm. Derby, Playhouse (0332 363275). Tues-Thurs at 7.30pm. A new comedy ballet, *Tom Dick and Harry*, by Nan Sheridan, is given today with Janet Smith's *Another Man Drowning*. Christopher Bruce's *Holiday Sketches* and Robert North's *Stravinsky Miniatures*. This last is repeated next week with Gill Clarke's *Rum and Coca-Cola* and Smith's *Signs of Another Sun*.

MAINTS
Birmingham, Midlands Arts Centre (021 440 3838). Today at 7.45pm

Brighton, Gardner Centre, University of Sussex (0273 685861). Mon-Feb 2 at 7.45pm. The programmes are selected from *Breakneck Hotel*, a new work by Timothy Buckley, and two pieces by Marlene's director, Michal Berges: *Mouth of the Night*, made in collaboration with Derek Jarman, and *Stage 7* for avant-gardists only.

Films: Geoff Brown: Theatre: Tony Patrick; Rock & Jazz: Richard Williams; Dance: John Percival; Opera: Hilary Finch

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1	DRAPERY AND STORES					
2	Debenhams					
3	Oliver (G)					
4	Smith (W) & A					
5	Br Home Stores					
6	MFI					
7	Burton					
8	Church					
9	Eam					
10	Vantona Viscella					
11	Dunhill					
12	INDUSTRIALS A-D					
13	APV					
14	WATC					
15	AIM					
16	Baker Perkins					
17	Bootham					
18	AAH					
19	Br Vita					
20	Assoc Heat					
21	PROPERTY					
22	Lox & Pro Shop					
23	Parfume					
24	Bradford					
25	MEPC					
26	Semco					
27	Laird Prop					
28	County B					
29	Besser (H)					
30	Chesterfield					
31	ELECTRICALS					
32	BSK					
33	MK Elec					
34	Parvill Elec					
35	Amrad					
36	CASE					
37	Thorn EMI					
38	Auto Sec					
39	Highland Elec					
40	Soud Diffusion					

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Wed	
Thu	
Fri	
Sat	

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1984/85	High	Low	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
1	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
2	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
3	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
4	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
5	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
6	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
7	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
8	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
9	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
10	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1984/85	High	Low	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
1	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
2	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
3	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
4	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
5	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
6	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
7	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
8	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
9	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
10	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00

UNDATED

1984/85	High	Low	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
1	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
2	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
3	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
4	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
5	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
6	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
7	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
8	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
9	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
10	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00

INDEX-LINKED

1984/85	High	Low	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
1	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
2	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
3	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
4	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
5	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
6	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
7	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
8	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
9	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
10	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

1984/85	High	Low	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
1	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
2	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
3	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
4	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
5	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
6	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
7	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
8	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
9	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
10	100.00	95.00	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares bounce back

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Monday, Dealings End, Feb 8, Contango Day, Feb 11, Settlement Day, Feb 18.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

1984/85	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
1	100.00	95.00	Debenhams	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
2	100.00	95.00	Oliver (G)	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
3	100.00	95.00	Smith (W) & A	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
4	100.00	95.00	Br Home Stores	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
5	100.00	95.00	MFI	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
6	100.00	95.00	Burton	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
7	100.00	95.00	Church	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
8	100.00	95.00	Eam	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
9	100.00	95.00	Vantona Viscella	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
10	100.00	95.00	Dunhill	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
11	100.00	95.00	INDUSTRIALS A-D	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
12	100.00	95.00	APV	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
13	100.00	95.00	WATC	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
14	100.00	95.00	AIM	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
15	100.00	95.00	Baker Perkins	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
16	100.00	95.00	Bootham	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
17	100.00	95.00	AAH	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
18	100.00	95.00	Br Vita	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
19	100.00	95.00	Assoc Heat	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
20	100.00	95.00	PROPERTY	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
21	100.00	95.00	Lox & Pro Shop	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
22	100.00	95.00	Parfume	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
23	100.00	95.00	Bradford	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
24	100.00	95.00	MEPC	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
25	100.00	95.00	Semco	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
26	100.00	95.00	Laird Prop	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
27	100.00	95.00	County B	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
28	100.00	95.00	Besser (H)	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
29	100.00	95.00	Chesterfield	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
30	100.00	95.00	ELECTRICALS	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
31	100.00	95.00	BSK	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
32	100.00	95.00	MK Elec	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
33	100.00	95.00	Parvill Elec	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
34	100.00	95.00	Amrad	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
35	100.00	95.00	CASE	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
36	100.00	95.00	Thorn EMI	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
37	100.00	95.00	Auto Sec	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
38	100.00	95.00	Highland Elec	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
39	100.00	95.00	Soud Diffusion	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
40	100.00	95.00	BRITISH FUNDS	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
41	100.00	95.00	OVER FIFTEEN YEARS	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
42	100.00	95.00	UNDATED	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
43	100.00	95.00	INDEX-LINKED	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
44	100.00	95.00	BANKS DISCOUNT HP	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
45	100.00	95.00	BUILDING AND ROADS	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
46	100.00	95.00	FINANCE AND LAND	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
47	100.00	95.00	FOODS	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
48	100.00	95.00	CHEMICALS, PLASTICS	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
49	100.00	95.00	CINEMAS AND TV	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
50	100.00	95.00	DRAPERY AND STORES	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
51	100.00	95.00	HOTELS AND CATERERS	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
52	100.00	95.00	INDUSTRIALS A-D	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
53	100.00	95.00	OVERSEAS TRADERS	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
54	100.00	95.00	PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
55	100.00	95.00	PROPERTY	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
56	100.00	95.00	SHIPPING	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
57	100.00	95.00	SHOES AND LEATHER	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
58	100.00	95.00	TEXTILES	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
59	100.00	95.00	MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
60	100.00	95.00	NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00
61	100.00	95.00	TOBACCO	98.50	+3.50	4.50	15.00

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

British Airways' flotation obscured by legal clouds

The flotation of British Airways shows no sign of emerging from the cloud of uncertainty and confusion which has engulfed it since Christmas, when it became clear that the stock market launch of the airline had been fatally blighted by the continuing Laker litigation in the United States. It is impossible to find anyone, either at the airline, or in Government, or in the City, who will predict with any confidence when and how the various legal problems will be sorted out.

Until they are, the flotation will remain firmly on the back-burner. Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for Transport, has plenty of other things on his plate - a big debate (and the need soon for a decision) on the Stansted report, and his bus legislation, which is likely to be highly contentious when it is introduced in Parliament, probably next week, and his officials are still miffed with BA for what they see as BA's eleventh hour volte face about how serious the Laker threat was going to be to privatization, it has to be reported too that they are fed up with what they see also as the airline's attempts to "bounce" them into quick decisions on such matters as the balance sheet and the actual date of flotation.

British Airways, meanwhile, is pressing ahead with its efforts to find a settlement to the \$1,000 million damages suit brought by Mr Christopher Morris, the Laker liquidator. Most of the main parties seem anxious to reach a settlement, including no doubt Mr Morris's employers at Touche Ross, who would probably like some other liquidation business. There are so many parties in the action that it will take several weeks to dot all the i's and cross all the t's even if BA succeeds in settling its settlement as it hopes too shortly. Even once the main litigation is out of the way, there are the so-called "class" actions to deal with.

These are the cases involving individual air travellers and others, and they are almost as serious a threat to the issue as the main action. The advice from BA's legal and merchant banking advisers is that flotation would still be difficult if the threat of the "class actions" had to be written into the prospectus.

Underlying all this too is the Government's simmering dispute with the US Government over the Bermuda Two treaty, and whether or not civil and anti-trust actions such as the Laker one should be allowed in the aviation field. The Department of Transport is prepared to accept however that this deeper question will probably not be resolved until after BA has come to market.

The Government is keen to make sure that once the legal hurdles have been finally cleared, there should be an adequate period to "market" the BA issue. While Mr Ridley would love to see the flotation take place in the summer, there is no guarantee that the June/July date which BA now has its eyes on will be made. With British Aerospace booked for around May, BA is having to take its place towards the back of the queue, rather than being firmly at the front, as it was before.

GEC's Bond makes for the touchline

The General Electric Company, 85 years old this year, will be losing almost one of the two great architects of its success next month. Sir Kenneth Bond, officially deputy managing director but in reality the alter to Lord Weinstock's ego, is about to enjoy more leisure time. He is 65 next Friday and in his own words, "won't be kicking the ball quite as much as I used to."

He will not relinquish all duties. Close observers suggest that he will be cheering, just as much from the touchline. Certainly no successor has yet been announced. It is, after all, says Sir Kenneth, much more a team at the top of GEC. As others made way to give him his managerial chance, so he will now stand aside to allow other men their opportunity.

The timing of this formal breaking of an historic bond has some old GEC Speculation: in particular the demerger of Marconi and the setting-up of an identifiable vehicle by which GEC would invest some of its £1.6 billion cash into other companies.

The floating of Marconi is currently shelved, though not ruled out. Investing in industry? GEC has a well-rehearsed answer: if you leave as much money as it does with the joint stock banks, some of it makes its way into industry anyway.

Venture capital and new project finance, though, may be about to get a shine. GEC has always encouraged the development of new products which it may not have thought of itself but is willing to test. This willingness to support products has broadened into a desire to make direct investments in venture projects. One of the senior executives responsible is Lord Weinstock's son, Simon, aged 30. He joined GEC after a year with the venture capital department of S. G. Warburg, the merchant bank. There, he was appreciated as a charming, clever, if at times nervous chap. His talent for picking winners except at the start he once managed, is difficult to gauge; venture capital projects take on average five years to justify an investment.

When he has established a track record, it will be a little easier to judge whether his claims to succeed his remarkable father are anything more than an effusion of paternal pride.

Share price a key to Dunlop jockeying

After a week of battle over Dunlop's future, all sides are still jockeying for position. In the market, the share prices of both Sir Owen Green's BTR and Dunlop again rose yesterday. The BTR bid is now worth 22.7p per Dunlop share, way below the nominal quotation of 38p but although still above the equivalent ex-rights price of 21.6p if Sir Michael Edwards's reconstruction deal went through.

The share price, so embarrassing before Sir Michael and his colleagues cancelled their special options, is now strong ammunition for them. Sir Michael is trying to stitch up a deal between the banks and small shareholders, ably represented by Professor Robert Pritchard, that will allow small shareholders to take up more of the banks' share rights on the reconstruction. The appeal to shareholders democracy and the long-abused loyalty of Dunlop's 40,000 private shareholders will come later.

Sir Michael also has the advantage of being in the driving seat. Provided he maintains his alliance with Pegg, his big Malaysian shareholder, he is in a good position to influence the timing of the meeting, scheduled for February 8, to approve the package.

At an earlier stage, the Dunlop camp might have preferred to delay the meeting, because Sir Owen can block the package with his preference shares. Now they see this as an opportunity to put BTR on the spot, because removing the choice from shareholders would lose BTR friends in the City.

The banks, while making concessions to small shareholders on the side, will be trying to wring some from BTR on the other. They do not like the idea of having to convert £100 million of debt into BTR preference shares - a condition of the BTR bid when the Dunlop plan involved converting only £70 million into a combination of preference and discount equity shares.

Sir Owen, however, still has the whip hand: he has the money and can bail the banks out of the whole complex exercise. BTR has delayed its offer document, and is clearly considering its option. It will surely need to raise its bid to win, whatever its spoiling tactics, and may well choose its moment just before the meeting. Institutions are looking for 30p per Dunlop share, which would not cost BTR much. The main cost of Dunlop is its fixed debt and one of its main attractions, its £200 million tax losses.

Poor Sir Michael, once a hero of managers and Whitehall, has lost popularity in both camps by some of his outspoken comments. Some outsiders maliciously suggest that BTR could put him and his colleagues in a corner by offering, say, 25p on present terms and 30p if Sir Michael agreed to waive compensation. However, he is not beaten yet, and one definition of victory is extracting a higher price from BTR.

Pound falls to \$1.132 despite exports record and pit hopes

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The pound dropped a new low yesterday, despite trade figures showing a small current account surplus last year, and renewed confidence of an early settlement to the miners' strike.

The sterling index closed at 70.6, down 0.1 on the day and the lowest ever London close. The pound dropped 58 points to \$1.1132 and more than half a penny to DM5.5340.

The trade figures had little impact on the pound, although they showed that exports rose to a record £6,701 million last month. With imports rising to £6,907 million, there was a £207 million trade deficit last month. Although with the estimated £400 million surplus on invisible trade, this translated into a £193 million current account surplus.

For 1984 as a whole, the

current account was in surplus by £196 million - slightly better than the Treasury's autumn statement forecast of zero balance - but sharply down on the 1983 surplus of £2,294 million.

The export performance, with a rise in volume of 8.3 per cent, was the best since 1976, but imports were strong volume rising by 10.8 per cent, the largest increase since 1972.

The Treasury estimates that the miners' strike led to a worsening of £2.75 billion in the current account last year, indicating an underlying surplus of about £3 billion. This suggests a somewhat better trade performance than was expected at the Budget last March when a £2 billion current account surplus was forecast. Even so, Britain's non-oil

trade position deteriorated sharply last year. In 1983 there was a non-oil trade deficit of £7,481 million. This widened to £11,404 million in 1984. The latest trade figures remain distorted by the effect of the new rules on collection of value added tax at the ports, introduced on November 1. Imports appear to have attempted to get round these rules by bringing forward imports and the import total dropped from £7,107 million in October to £6,602 million in November, before recovering to £6,907 million last month.

The trade surplus in oil recovered to £333 million last month from £386 million in November. This was a result of record North Sea oil production with a fall in oil imports for power stations use.

Sterling's weakness continued to cause nervousness on the money markets, with the three-month interbank rate edging up to 12 1/2 to 13 1/2, at the close, up from 12 1/2 on the previous closing level.

IN BRIEF

Hanson bid deadline

Hanson Trust yesterday said that Tuesday will be the final closing date for its £180 million takeover bid for Powell Duffryn, the fuel distribution, shipping and engineering group. The offer could have been extended for several weeks under takeover rules, but Hanson clearly feels there is tactical advantage in a speedy conclusion to the battle.

On the stock market, Powell Duffryn shares fell 7p to 431p - 26p below the value Hanson's four-for-three share exchange terms places on them. Dealers attributed the wide differential to a growing belief that the bid will fail.

Merger agreed

Michael Page Partnership, the financial recruitment group, and Addison Communications, the corporate communications concern, have agreed terms for a merger.

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Last chance Yarrow ballot

By Jonathan Davis, Business Correspondent

Workers at the Yarrow shipbuilding yard on Clyde have to be balloted for a second time next Tuesday in a final effort to win support for the management's scheme to stage an employee buyout there.

Narrow is one of seven of British Shipbuilders' warship yards up for sale as part of the Government's privatization drive. The scheme, drawn up by Barclays Merchant Bank, would involve a joint buyout of both Yarrow and another Scottish yard, Hall Russell, of Aberdeen.

In the first ballot of employees, there was an overwhelming vote in favour at Hall Russell, where 98 per cent of the 780 workers backed the scheme. But the ballot at Yarrow was boycotted by most workers after local shop stewards urged their members not to take part. Only 20 per cent of Yarrow's 5,400



Norman Lamont: keen on buyouts

workers voted, although 93 per cent of those who did said they would back the scheme.

Barclays Merchant Bank, which has been canvassing institutional support in the City for the buyout, said yesterday it

would withdraw from the scheme unless there was a better turnout - and a vote in favour - at a final ballot this week.

Several companies, including Trafalgar House, are known to be interested in buying the Yarrow yard, which produces the Type 22 frigate. A buyout of the Hall Russell yard on its own was not feasible, Barclays Merchant Bank said.

Mr Norman Lamont, the minister responsible for shipbuilding at the Department of Trade and Industry, has made it clear that he is interested in the idea of buyouts in the warship yard sale programme. Similar attempts are being made at several other yards including Vospo, Swan Hunter and Brooke Marine.

In considering the value of rival bids, Mr Lamont is expected to give some extra "weighting" to those involving buyouts.

Qualified win for ICI over taxes

ICI won a partial victory in the High Court yesterday in a decision on its allegations that oil companies were receiving unfair tax advantages.

Mr Justice Woolf ruled that the Inland Revenue had acted unlawfully in the way certain tax was assessed for ICI's leading competitors, Shell, Esso and BP. However, ICI lost its main claim that the Government had allowed the oil companies tax concessions which breached EEC fair competition laws on aid to industry.

The legal battle against the Government concerned alleged concessions on tax levied on the gas mixture, ethane, which the oil companies extract from the North Sea and use in the manufacture of ethylene - one of the most important materials in the petrochemical industry.

ICI uses naphtha to make its ethylene. The company complained that naphtha did not attract tax concessions, and therefore it was the victim of unlawful discrimination.

The judge said ICI complained that the Government included tax clauses in the 1982 Finance Act favourable to the oil companies because Esso and Shell had threatened to pull out of their £500 million ethylene plant project at Mossmorran on the Firth of Forth, which is expected to create 250 jobs.

Indeed, ICI contends that there must have been a confidential deal between Shell, Esso and the Government, affording a tax concession so major as to enable the continuance of a project which, in the then market conditions, would not otherwise have been viable," he said.

ICI also alleged that BP had threatened to close its ethylene plant at Grangemouth.

Shares in Fleet Holdings, the Daily Star and Express, Crumlin publishing group, rose 7p to a record 23p yesterday as speculators gambled on a takeover bid.

United Newspapers has 18 per cent of Fleet and is expected to increase that to 20 per cent. But most of its investment was bought from Mr Robert Maxwell's Pergamon Press at only 230p. United called a shareholders' meeting yesterday to approve the deal with Pergamon.

NatWest loans

National Westminster is lifting the cost of personal loans and home improvements because of recent interest rate rises. A two-year personal loan goes from 10 to 11 per cent (23 per cent annually); a five-year secured home improvement loan from 8 to 9 per cent (17.4 per cent effective).

Mr John Robertshaw has resigned as a non-executive director of Miss Debbie Moore's Pinnacle Dance Studios. A spokesman attributed the move to the fact that Energy Finance and General Trust, which Mr Robertshaw represented, is no longer financial adviser to Pinnacle.

Investment down

Institutional investment in property fell by 9.6 per cent in the third quarter of last year to £394 million against £436 million in the previous quarter. Knight, Frank & Rutley, the estate agent, says that average quarterly investment, taking the first three quarters of 1984, was £367 million.

Rights issue by Sangers

By Pam Spooner

Sangers, the holding company led by Mr Tom Whyte, announced a one-for-two scrip and subsequent nine-for-eight rights issue yesterday to raise £18.4 million. The cash will pay for Pavilion, a US budget-price cosmetics business for which Sangers has been negotiating for nine months.

Pavilion has shown startling growth in four years, from sales of \$952,000 in 1980 to \$18.63 million last year, when profits were \$3.53 million. The group forecast \$6 million (\$5.2 million) pretax profit for the year to next June 30.

In total, Pavilion will cost \$24 million; \$17 million is payable now, with the rest due over the next five years on a profit-achieved basis.

Tempus, page 23

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind Ord	1002.8(+11.1)
FT-A All Share	820.20(+6.27)
FT Govt Securities	79.82(+0.30)
FT-SE 100	1288.0(+13.3)
Bargains: 31,486	
Dataseam USM	105.78(+0.65)
New York	
Dow Jones	1270.86(+0.44)
Tokyo	
Nikkei Dow	11,785.10(-71.26)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	1373.91(-10.98)
Amsterdam	195.5(-0.8)
Sydney: AO	754.5(+1.8)
Frankfurt	
Commerzbank	1139.3(-10.3)
Brussels:	
General	128.04(+2.06)
Paris: CAC	195.2(-0.3)
Zurich:	
SKA General	336.20(+0.30)

GOLD

London (fading)	am \$299.25pm \$298.85
close	\$299.75-\$300.25 (\$268.75-269.25)
New York \$299.75	
Comex (latest)	

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Michael Page	350 +90
Redman Heenan	16 +3 1/2
Addison Comm	263 +62
Metal Sciences	11 +2
Lister	58 +6 1/2
Suter did	131 +14
Renold	81 +6
Wingworth Mor "A"	58 +4
David Dixon	138 +13
Aspinall Higgs	130 +10
Wingworth Mor	56 +5
Suter	144 +12
W. G. Allen	24 +2
Anvil Petroleum	355 +25
Allied Textiles	190 +15
Stroud Riley	51 +4
Dobson Park Ind	67 +8

FALLS:

Weeks Associates	11 -3
Wholesale Fittings	270 -50
CIFER	18 -3
Lyle Shipping	14 -2
Pressac Higgs	139 -12
Alpine Soft Drinks	39 -2
Resources Technology	39 -3

CURRENCIES

London:	
\$: \$1.1322 (-0.0058)	
DM: DM5.5240 (-0.0080)	
Sfr: Sfr 2.9825 (-0.0065)	
FF: FF 10.7805 (-0.0115)	
Yen: Yen 282.50 (-1.45)	
E index: 70.6 (-0.1)	
New York:	
\$: \$1.1105	
Federal: 100.00	
S index: 145.1 (unchanged)	
ECU: ECU 0.628549	
SDR: SDR 0.574844	

INTEREST RATES

London:	
Bank Rate: 12%	
3-month Interbank 12 1/2%-12 3/4%	
3-month eligible bills 11 1/2%-11%	
US:	
Prime Rate 10.50	
Federal Reserve 4 1/2%	
3-month Treasury Bills 7.64-7.60%	
Long bond 104 1/4-104 1/2%	
yield	

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Please complete in block capitals. Tick where appropriate

☐ I wish to open a Sovereign Account and enclose a cheque for £ (Max. £30,000, Joint Account £50,000).

☐ I wish to open a Sovereign Monthly Interest Account and enclose a cheque for £ (Max. £30,000, Joint Account £50,000).

☐ Cheques should be made payable to Skipton Building Society.

☐ Please send me more details.

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STOCK MARKET REPORT

Shares climb back over 1,000 as pit and interest rate fears recede

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Shares climbed back above the 1,000-point mark yesterday. Receding fears of higher interest rates and expectations that the pit dispute will be over within a week had the stock market in a buoyant mood from the start.

At the close, the FT 30 index registered an 11.1-point gain to 1,002.8. It first passed 1,000 on Friday last week and has finished below that level only once since then.

The account, which ended yesterday, started with the FT 30 index at 968.3. It has been one of the most volatile accounts in the history of the index. Besides embracing the 1,000 achievement it also took in the record worst one-day fall when, in value terms, more than £4.50 million was wiped off shares.

New-time buying was a factor behind yesterday's progress with many of the market's takeover favourites attracting attention.

Oil was strong awaiting Monday's Opec meeting. The expected price cut has already been discounted by the market. British Petroleum led the way with a 13p gain to 516p. Britoil was 7p higher at 210p and Shell rose 11p to 716p.

Government stocks ended with gains of up to 1/4p. Slightly easier pound towards the close and £250 million worth of index-linked taplets took 1/2p or so off best levels.

Elsewhere, BTR gained 15p

to 369p as the market awaited developments in the Dunlop Holdings saga. Dunlop rose 2 1/2p to 36p.

House of Fraser jumped 18p to 338p on continuing speculation about its direction following the Al-Fayed brothers' arrival in the boardroom. Lloyds, which continues to intrigue the market with its 29.9 per cent share of HOF and its subsequent 6 per cent purchase, was 3p higher at 180p.

USM dealings are due to start on Thursday in the shares of Consolidated Terra Investments, a property development to plant hire group which in the year to last September achieved pretax profits of £736,000. Robert Fleming and Co, the merchant banker, has placed 1.7 million shares at 105p, putting them on 7.7 times earnings. On the forecast dividend, the yield is 6.8 per cent.

There were selective gains among other stocks. W. H. Smith, where consensus big hopes linger, was at one time 10p harder but closed with a 4p gain at 214p.

Dixons Group enjoyed a late run, improving 33p to 597p. NBS Newsagents continued to reflect takeover hopes, gaining 1p to 110p, and Woolworth Holdings leapt 17p to 633p following the move to bring in Fitch and Co. to give the stores

a face lift. Fitch, which has carried out such exercises for other retail chains, gained 25p at 405p.

Stocks which would benefit from the end of the miners' strike were in demand. Park rose 3 1/2p to 84 1/2p and Dowty Group 5p to 126p.

Associated British Ports was another to gain on next week's pit talks, improving 7p to 233p.

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Beers were strong. Bass progressed 7p on Thursday's cheerful annual meeting comments, hitting 519p. Allied Lyons, the beer to food group, had a helping hand from a lunch at Scrimgeour Kemp.

Geac, the stockbroker, jumped 15p to 190p. Allied which reorganized its beer division recently, has limped behind the other leading breweries which have been strong in the past few months.

Deals are due to start on Thursday in Alexandra Wear, a clothing group. The share sale, handled by Samuel Montagu, the merchant banker, has been a resounding success - 89 times oversubscribed with £384 million flooding in for shares priced at £4.3 million.

Applicants for up to 18,000 shares go into a weighted ballot for 200 shares and the rest are drastically scaled down with, for example, those who sought 70,000 to 85,000 shares having to content with 800 shares.

The shares were sold at 100p a time. A first day price of about 130p seems likely.

Southwest Resources improved 2p to 51p as the company took a 25 per cent interest in a Hong Kong company involved in the oil back-up business. An £8 million rights issue - on a three for five ratio at 40p - is planned.

Delemol, which owns 54 per cent of SWR, will take up its rights share.

The surprising merger between Addison Communications, the design and public relations group, and Michael Page Group, which engages in financial recruitment, sent the shares of both companies bounding ahead.

Addison was 62p harder at 263p and Page rose 99p to 360p. Disappointing profits from Rayford Saperstein, the electric group, left the shares 10p down at 150p but New Kestrel,

Shares of Ewart New Northern, an obscure property company, jumped 21p to 271p yesterday as Northcote and Co., the stockbroker, bid in the market for almost 62,000 shares at 270p.

The buying was thought to be on behalf of Mr Tom Whynes, chairman and controlling shareholder of Havard Securities, the licensed dealer. He already has a share stake and may seek to lift his interest to 14.9 per cent.

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Finlay Packaging scored from a stockbroker's visit, rising 7p to 62p. Aspland Holdings was 10p higher after the association with Sir James Goldsmith's American share buying venture.

Electricals remained subdued on the disappointing Rascal Electronics profits performance. Rascal itself fell 6p to 212p after touching 204p.

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Strong National Westminster rose 23p to 657p. Barclays Bank was 12p harder at 624p and Lloyds Bank gained 12p to 554p. With both the Bank of Scotland and the Royal Bank of Scotland making progress, if at a rather more sedate pace, the only high street clearer to miss

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There was considerable activity among other financial stocks. Britannia Arrow came on for renewed takeover speculation and rose 3p to 115p. Insurance shares were firm.

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Life insurers also produced a fine array of gains and insurance brokers made handsome progress.

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DRG Group had an active time but finished unchanged at 177p. Buzal, regarded by many as the most likely bidder, was 3p harder at 498p.

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Muirhead, the electronics group, was also active ahead of expected results, rising 8p to 17p.

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The demerging last May of Bowater into Bowater Incorporated, the North American pulp and paper producer, and Bowater Industries, the British holding company with paper, building product and service activities, seems to have done neither side any harm.

Bowater Incorporated announced its 1984 results yesterday and showed a healthy 74 per cent increase in pretax profits on continuing operations to \$118.4 million (£105.7 million). The figures were much as expected. The shares added a few cents to \$23 1/2, from \$23 1/4, compared with an opening price on Wall Street after the demerger of \$11.

Good demand for US paper products - Bowater Inc is the largest producer of newsprint in the US - caused a rise in operating income in the newsprint division of 24 per cent to \$83.2 million. Coated paper rose 69 per cent to \$36.8 million and pulp showed a massive recovery to \$23.8 million, against \$5.1 million.

Estimates for 1985 are for a continued though more modest increase in profits to \$135 million pretax or \$3 a share fully diluted compared with \$2.57. Wall Street analysts have been shading back their 1985 estimates for paper and commodity product companies by anything from 10 to 50 per cent, because of the continued weakness in commodity prices and the strong dollar.

Bowater itself mentioned the difficulties of the dollar in its pulp section, where 80 per cent of output is sold overseas, and pointed out the softening of pulp prices in the last quarter of 1984.

Paper company shares, however, had a run-up on Wall Street over the past couple of weeks, after being out of favour in 1984. Despite the problems of the dollar and product prices, Bowater is viewed as sufficiently well managed and with a good enough record to ride out such difficulties.

Meanwhile, the former British parent's shares rose 1p to 243p, close to their high for the

year. Bowater Industries is expected to make 1984 profits of £39 million, against £27.5 million in 1983.

Page/Addison
On paper the merger between Michael Page Partnership and Addison Communications is hard to fault. It brings together two young but high-flying USM companies operating in buoyant market places, yet complementary services.

The common link is the British company finance director, who is generally the purchaser of the services offered by both Michael Page and Addison. The former specializes in financial recruitment, the latter in corporate communication.

Michael Page's great strength is its lengthy client list. It has almost 1,000 highly prized clients, but has been unable to make the most of the list because of the limitation on the services which could be offered. Addison, however, has a wide range of services but a much smaller client base. Put the two organizations together and in theory the marketing opportunities become limitless.

The idea for the merger came from two clients common to both companies who recognized the potential benefits which could accrue to the combined group. The emphasis, though, must be on the word "potential".

The opportunities are clearly available to the new group to expand the existing businesses at a rate which would not have been possible as separate companies. However, it remains to be seen whether the combined management will be able to produce the results to match the hypothetical benefits.

Both companies have been inspired by shrewd and energetic chairmen - Mr Michael Page and Mr Steve Smith - and both rely for their success on the quality of their staff. In businesses which are, therefore, dominated by personalities there must be a danger of a clash which could inhibit overall performance.

The financial benefits of the merger not filter through to the profit and loss account immediately. There should be some savings on central overheads, and the combined group will be able to reduce its six London offices.

However, there will be a period of consolidation while the merger is put in place. The new group could make £2.7 million in 1985, against an estimated £2 million in 1984. It might be 1986 though, before profits truly reflect the impact of the merger.

Sangers
Few businessmen tagged with the City term "financier" are straightforward, simple souls; after all, they work in a complex world, full of subtleties or wrinkles, to use the American term - and must use highly technical means to achieve their ends. But Tom Whyte, well remembered for his role at Triumph Investment Trust which failed a decade ago, must rate as one of the more difficult money men to understand.

His latest deal at Sangers - the purchase through a rights issue of the American cosmetics group Pavion - will cost him another £3.5 million in taking up part of his rights. It will cut his stake in Sangers from 48 per cent to 30 per cent and put the Pavion president, Mr Stanley Acker, in a strong controlling position at Sangers.

Meanwhile the British company will have only limited control over the progress of the US business.

Not to put too fine a point on it, the impression is that Mr Whyte is taking something of a "flier" on the future of Sangers/Pavion. He is even selling part of his new shares at a slight discount to Mr Acker, to provide the American with an initial 5.4 per cent stake in the group.

All this, of course, relies on the ability of Pavion to maintain its growth rate. It still has only a small piece of the US cosmetics market, though it claims to be the number one in low-price cosmetics.

Traded option highlights

Business slowed markedly in traded options yesterday, with the total number of contracts dealt in just breaking through the 11,000 mark. Earlier in the week, there was a brisk 16,000-18,000 a day being bought.

British Telecom stayed high on the active list, despite an apparent slow down in the number of transactions in the ordinary share. Option dealers traded 1,447 calls and 666 puts in BT.

The FT-SE 100 contract was

also popular, with 753 calls and 1,236 put bought. Throughout the week the pattern of business on the index contract has reflected fear of a downturn for the market indices.

Racial contracts showed hopes that the ordinary share price will rise again. There were 648 calls, against 196 puts.

Imperial Group, Lloyds and the 10% 1989 Exchange stock were among the actively traded contracts, with 889, 486 and 406 dealt in respectively.

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Good demand for US paper products - Bowater Inc is the largest producer of newsprint in the US - caused a rise in operating income in the newsprint division of 24 per cent to \$83.2 million. Coated paper rose 69 per cent to \$36.8 million and pulp showed a massive recovery to \$23.8 million, against \$5.1 million.

Estimates for 1985 are for a continued though more modest increase in profits to \$135 million pretax or \$3 a share fully diluted compared with \$2.57. Wall Street analysts have been shading back their 1985 estimates for paper and commodity product companies by anything from 10 to 50 per cent, because of the continued weakness in commodity prices and the strong dollar.

Bowater itself mentioned the difficulties of the dollar in its pulp section, where 80 per cent of output is sold overseas, and pointed out the softening of pulp prices in the last quarter of 1984.

Paper company shares, however, had a run-up on Wall Street over the past couple of weeks, after being out of favour in 1984. Despite the problems of the dollar and product prices, Bowater is viewed as sufficiently well managed and with a good enough record to ride out such difficulties.

Meanwhile, the former British parent's shares rose 1p to 243p, close to their high for the

year. Bowater Industries is expected to make 1984 profits of £39 million, against £27.5 million in 1983.

Page/Addison
On paper the merger between Michael Page Partnership and Addison Communications is hard to fault. It brings together two young but high-flying USM companies operating in buoyant market places, yet complementary services.

The common link is the British company finance director, who is generally the purchaser of the services offered by both Michael Page and Addison. The former specializes in financial recruitment, the latter in corporate communication.

Michael Page's great strength is its lengthy client list. It has almost 1,000 highly prized clients, but has been unable to make the most of the list because of the limitation on the services which could be offered. Addison, however, has a wide range of services but a much smaller client base. Put the two organizations together and in theory the marketing opportunities become limitless.

The idea for the merger came from two clients common to both companies who recognized the potential benefits which could accrue to the combined group. The emphasis, though, must be on the word "potential".

The opportunities are clearly available to the new group to expand the existing businesses at a rate which would not have been possible as separate companies. However, it remains to be seen whether the combined management will be able to produce the results to match the hypothetical benefits.

Both companies have been inspired by shrewd and energetic chairmen - Mr Michael Page and Mr Steve Smith - and both rely for their success on the quality of their staff. In businesses which are, therefore, dominated by personalities there must be a danger of a clash which could inhibit overall performance.

The financial benefits of the merger not filter through to the profit and loss account immediately. There should be some savings on central overheads, and the combined group will be able to reduce its six London offices.

However, there will be a period of consolidation while the merger is put in place. The new group could make £2.7 million in 1985, against an estimated £2 million in 1984. It might be 1986 though, before profits truly reflect the impact of the merger.

Sangers
Few businessmen tagged with the City term "financier" are straightforward, simple souls; after all, they work in a complex world, full of subtleties or wrinkles, to use the American term - and must use highly technical means to achieve their ends. But Tom Whyte, well remembered for his role at Triumph Investment Trust which failed a decade ago, must rate as one of the more difficult money men to understand.

His latest deal at Sangers - the purchase through a rights issue of the American cosmetics group Pavion - will cost him another £3.5 million in taking up part of his rights. It will cut his stake in Sangers from 48 per cent to 30 per cent and put the Pavion president, Mr Stanley Acker, in a strong controlling position at Sangers.

Meanwhile the British company will have only limited control over the progress of the US business.

Brazilian economists seek to curb debt repayments

From Patrick Knight, São Paulo

Economists preparing an action plan for the incoming government of Senator Tancred Neves are reported to have called for Brazil's interest payments to be capitalized.

They believe it is not feasible for Brazil to pay an amount - between \$11 and \$12.5 billion (£9.9 and £11.2 billion) this year - equivalent to at least the surplus in visible trade.

Neves has come out firmly against calling a moratorium, which he says would invite intolerable reprisals by creditors. But he also says the

Hampton in £9m deal

Hampton Gold Mining

Area, of London, is taking 38.7 per cent stakes in Centennial and Marathon, two companies with which it has been involved in seeking gold and other minerals in a 400 square mile area of north-west Colorado.

The deal forms part of a restructuring of Hampton's interests in the project and will involve an outlay of around £9 million.

As part of the arrangement, Hampton will be able to nominate representatives to the boards of the two companies

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26th January 1985

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PENSIONS

Budget threat to tax privileges

MARK'S NOT ONLY WORRIED ABOUT OLD AGE, HE'S ALSO WORRIED ABOUT COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE.



Clearly, anyone who has not taken out a personal pension plan and is eligible to do so should act before March 19. If the Budget does abolish some or all of the generous tax reliefs on personal pension contributions, those that sign up with a regular premium plan before the Budget should keep their privileges intact - as did those who scrambled into unit-linked and endowment savings life assurance plans at this time last year.

Higher rate taxpayers should also be looking at pension mortgages - the increasingly popular and tax-efficient way of funding both your home loan and your eventual pension.

The principle of the pension mortgage is quite simple, and similar in many ways to an endowment mortgage. You pay interest only on the home loan at a slightly higher rate than the straightforward repayment. But you take out a pension policy maturing when the loan is repayable.

The mortgage is pitched to run to retirement when the capital is paid off using the tax-free lump sum that can be commuted under Inland Revenue rules, leaving the ongoing pension entitlement intact. You have to leave a residual pension of at least three times the commuted lump sum. You can, of course, fund the pension to leave you tax-free cash over and above the amount required to pay off the mortgage.

There are a number of tax advantages. Anyone who is self-employed or in non-pensionable employment is eligible for full tax relief on the pension contributions. It is worth remembering that there is now tax relief on new endowment mortgages. The money invested in a personal pension fund rolls up tax free - unlike insurance company funds.

This means, effectively, that it takes less gross contribution to create the capital required to pay off the loan if you take the pension, as opposed to the endowment mortgage route.

The table demonstrates how tax-efficient a pension mortgage can be for the higher rate payer. The net cost of funding both mortgage and pension for the 50 per cent taxpayer is lower than the amount paid by the basic rate taxpayer on his or her repayment mortgage, which frankly seems unfair. The figures for lump-sum and pension entitlements are based on an anticipated growth rate of 10 per cent a year.

Surprisingly, the pension offices say there has not been an enormous demand for the pension mortgage despite its obvious attractions.

Save & Prosper's Mr David Butcher says: "We have to be careful who we sell to. Really it's for the self-employed paying higher rate tax on a fairly steady income. It certainly isn't for everyone."

Mr Peter Duplock at Legal & General shares the view. "One problem is that we don't really know how the Budget will affect the pension mortgage," he says.

The Chancellor decides to "tax the commuted lump-sum," it is clearly going to mean that the individual will have to make higher contributions to achieve that objective. The same thing applies if he makes the pension investment funds pay tax internally.

Mr Dennis Garneser of Schroder says: "In view of all the uncertainty, we haven't been pushing pension mortgages. But we do believe that if people are thinking of doing something anyway, they are not going to lose out by doing it before the Budget."

Most building societies will accept a pension mortgage. You can enquire there, or go to an insurance broker or an accountant. Some building societies, like the Abbey National, will accept only with-profit pension plans, but not unit-linked. All the building societies will insist on dealing with a life office of which they approve.

With your mortgage on the line as well as your comfort in old age, you should be doubly concerned about comparative performance, too.

The table shows the best performing unit-linked and with-profit plans over the last five years.

Investment Managers Target soars head and shoulders above all rivals in the pensions field coming, once again, top of the performance league table in the Money Magazine annual survey of personal pensions.

A £500-a-year premium paid into Target's managed pension fund would produce a fund of £5,771 over five years. Which would buy an annual pension of £908 a year. Target's nearest rival, London & Manchester Investment Trust Pension Fund would have shown a fund of

Mr Niall Sweeney, editor of Money Magazine, said: "The difference between the Target fund and the worst performer, M. & G. Property, which produced a fund and pension of under half Target's payout would make a very substantial difference to people's standard of living in retirement."

Fears of a Budget cutback in tax reliefs on personal pension plans have precipitated a rush to buy - and the insurance companies which market these schemes are cashing in on the rush.

"The trouble is, personal pension schemes are sold without the buyer having any means of comparing benefits with what may be available from other companies," said Mr Sweeney, and added: "The survey highlights the importance of picking the right pension scheme. If you are sold the wrong one, it could more than halve your income in retirement."

Copies of the February issue of Money Magazine, containing the personal pensions survey can be obtained from 8a West Smithfield, London EC1A 9JR. Price £1.50 including postage.

Maggie Drummond

Top five unit-linked funds

£500 annual premium paid for five years	fund at retirement
Target Managed	£5,771
London & Manchester Investment Trust	£5,193
M&G American	£5,174
M&G Personal Pension	£4,945
M&G Equity	£4,945

Top five with-profit policies

£500 annual premium paid for five years	fund at retirement
Scottish Mutual	£4,824
Scottish Widows	£4,718
Yorkshire-General	£4,613
Friends Provident	£4,592
Scottish Amicable	£4,542

£5,557 buying a pension of £774.

MALE AGED 40 - £30,000 LOAN OVER 25 YEARS

PENSION MORTGAGE			REPAYMENT MORTGAGE			LOW-COST ENDOWMENT MORTGAGE		
Interest rate 12.25%			Interest rate 13%			Interest rate 13.25%		
Tax rate	30%	50%	Tax rate	30%	50%	Tax rate	30%	50%
Gross monthly interest	331.25	331.25	Gross monthly repayment	341.10	341.10	Gross monthly interest	331.25	331.25
Net monthly interest	231.88	185.92				Net monthly interest	231.88	185.92
Pension contributions gross	54.74	84.74				Endowment premium	49.70	49.70
Pension contributions net	59.32	42.37						
Total net monthly cost	291.20	207.99	Net monthly cost	243.60	178.60	Total Net monthly cost	281.58	215.33
Tax-free benefits	30,000*	30,000*	Residual benefits	none-loan repaid		Eventual benefits	£5,400*	£5,400*
Annual pension	9,491	9,491				Tax-free lump sum	£5,400*	£5,400*

*used to repay loan

*£30,000 used to repay loan

If we told you how to save £25,000 in one year, would you consider retiring?

If you're not a member of your employer's pension scheme, you could end up relying only on the state pension.

Doing something about your retirement NOW makes all the difference.

For example, if you're aged 29, a Hill Samuel Life Personal Pension Account could provide a Projected Fund at age 65 of over £250,000* for a gross contribution of £50 per month.

Even at the current basic rate of income tax relief, you would be paying a mere £35 per month. But by delaying the start of your plan by just one year you could reduce your Projected Fund by more than £25,000*.

Hill Samuel Life has a Personal Pension Account to suit you and your requirements. Talk to Hill Samuel Life and make worries about your future a thing of the past. Filling in the coupon will put you under no obligation.

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*Assuming 12 per cent per annum unit price growth rate.

To: Hill Samuel Investment Services Limited, NLA Tower, 12-16 Addiscombe Road, Croydon CR9 6BP. I would like to talk to Hill Samuel about a Personal Pension Account.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel. _____

HILL SAMUEL
INVESTMENT SERVICES

SAVINGS

The money shop reappears

In the early seventies, when a former Conservative administration was promoting greater competitiveness in financial services (remember Competition and Credit Control), a rash of new-style Money Shops sprang up. They all but disappeared in the financial collapse of 1974, but proving that there is no such thing as an original idea, R. J. Temple, the investment adviser, has unveiled "the UK's first high street savings and investment shop of its kind" in Glasgow.

Save and Invest shops - the Glasgow opening is the first of several planned by R. J. Temple - will open six days a week offering "a comprehensive range of savings and investment services".

Mr Jeffrey Deans, previously a regional investment manager for R. J. Temple, will be running the Glasgow Save and Invest shop.

The new shop is at 161 Hope Street in central Glasgow.

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Member of the National Association of Security Dealers and Investment Managers.

An investment idea whose time has come.

THE RIGHT AREA

Important developments are taking place on the Stock Markets of Continental Europe.

In many countries there has been a fundamental reassessment of the role and value of share investment as a means of financing industrial development. As a result, many new companies have been encouraged to seek quotations, and there has been a dramatic increase in international interest in European markets. Already Europe accounts for about 9.5% of the total value of world stock markets - and it is expected that this proportion will increase rapidly over the years ahead.

THE RIGHT OPPORTUNITIES

A fundamental consequence of these changes is that the shares of many more small companies are now quoted on Europe's stock markets. And in several countries local equivalents of our Unlisted Securities Market have been developed specifically to help smaller companies come to the market.

Such companies often operate in technologically advanced industries and because of their size tend to be relatively free from external interference and to be able to continue to work on high profit margins. Elsewhere in the world, smaller companies have shown much greater than average growth - a fact clearly instanced by the long term

performance of Henderson American Smaller Companies Trust which has achieved 304%* growth over the 6 years since its launch in 1978.

At Henderson we believe the time is right to invest in the smaller companies of Europe and we are now launching a new unit trust to enable you to do just that.

THE RIGHT MANAGERS

The objective of Henderson European Smaller Companies Trust is to achieve above average growth through investment in the shares of companies quoted on the stock markets of Europe (excl. the UK) and which have capitalisation of less than £60 million. The estimated gross annual yield will be 1.0%.

The trust will be managed by the same team that manages over £2.3 billion of investors' funds and which has an outstanding track record of international investment performance. The Henderson European Trust, for example, has (including reinvested net income) achieved an increase in value of 486%* over the last 10 years. At the present time, the Group currently has over £70 million invested in Continental Europe.

The managers plan to spread the new trust's portfolio broadly and to manage it actively. Initially, the portfolio is expected to be distributed: France 30%, Norway 25%, Germany 10%, Holland 10%, Sweden 5%, Switzerland 5%, Belgium 5%, others (including Spain, Denmark, Austria, Italy and Finland) 10%.

THE RIGHT IDEA

If you share our view that Henderson European Smaller Companies Trust is an idea whose time has come you can invest at the fixed launch offer price of 50p per unit, simply by returning the application form below, together with your cheque either directly to the managers or through your professional adviser by Friday, 15th February 1985.

You should remember however that the price of units in a unit trust and the income from them can go down as well as up and that you should regard your investment as long term.

*offer to offer basis net income reinvested to 21/1/85

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

An initial charge of 5 1/4% on the assets (equivalent to 5% of the issue price) is made by the managers when units are issued. Out of the initial charge, managers pay remuneration to qualified intermediaries, rates available on request. The Trust Deed provides for an annual charge of 1 1/4% (plus VAT) on the value of the Trust to be deducted from the gross income to cover administration costs.

Distributions of income will be paid on 10th December each year, net of basic rate tax. Contract notes will be issued and unit certificates will be provided within eight weeks of payment. To sell units endorse your certificate and send it to the managers. Payment will normally be made within seven working days.

Unit Truists are not subject to capital gains tax, moreover a unit holder will not pay tax on a disposal of units unless the total realised gains from all sources in his tax year amount to more than £5,000. Prices and Yields can be found daily in the Financial Times. Trustees: Midland Bank Trust Co. Limited, 119 Old Broad Street, London EC4N 3DP. Managers: Henderson Unit Trust Management Limited, 26 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1DA. Registered Office: 26 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1DA. Registration Number: 884283 England. A member of the Unit Trust Association.

Henderson European Smaller Companies Trust

To: Henderson Unit Trust Management Limited, Dealing Department, 5 Rayleigh Road, Horton, Brentwood, Essex CM15 1AA. Telephone: 01-638 557.

I/We wish to buy _____ units in Henderson European Smaller Companies Trust at the fixed price of 50p per unit. (Minimum initial investment £500.)

I/We enclose remittance of £ _____ payable to Henderson Unit Trust Management Limited.

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss) _____ First Name(s) _____

Address _____

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

This offer will close 15th February 1985. After the close of this offer, units will be available at the daily quoted price. If there are joint applicants each must sign and attach names and addresses separately.

Broker Stamp: _____

Henderson. The Investment Managers.

Still more interest.

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CHELTENHAM GOLD ACCOUNT		APPLIED RATE	EFFECTIVE ANNUAL RATE**	GROSS EQUIVALENT ANNUAL RATE
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CHELTENHAM GOLD MONTHLY INTEREST ACCOUNT		9.00% NET	9.38% NET	13.40% GROSS
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□ Please send more details.

Full Name (s) Mr/Mrs/Miss _____ BLOCK CAPITALS

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Postcode _____ RCT 1

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FAMILY MONEY

US wins experts' vote as best bet for

The Times Unit Trust Competition 1985

1. Competitors are invited to use their skill and judgement to select three UK authorised unit trusts (not offshore funds) in existence as at January 1985 which they believe will outperform all others during 1985.
2. Competitors will be required to make a first, second and third choice, but the winner will be the competitor whose first choice is the best performing unit trust. Second and third choices will be taken into account only in the event of a tie. In the event of there still being more than one winner the tie-breaker will be invoked.
3. Entries will be limited to one per person and must be made on official entry forms printed in *The Times*. Photocopies are not acceptable.
4. Opening prices will be those published on Friday, February 1 1985. Closing prices will be those of Tuesday, December 31st, 1985.
5. In the event of unit trusts merging, final performance will be calculated as performance to the date of merger, plus performance of the merged trust to the end of the competition period.
6. Performance will be monitored by *Planned Savings* Magazine and is based on an offer to offer price basis, net income reinvested.
7. Entries must be received by Thursday 31 January, at the office of *The Times*.
8. Proof of posting will not be accepted as evidence of receipt.
9. Employees of *News International*, *Times Newspapers*, and their families are not eligible to enter.
10. The editors' decision in all matters is final and no correspondence will be entertained.

ENTRY FORM

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone number _____
The unit trust I believe will perform best in 1985 is:
First choice: 1 _____
2 _____
3 _____

Category (Please tick appropriate line)
☐ 1 General ☐ 2 Professional Adviser ☐ 3 Under 18 years ☐ 4 The Breaker
I estimate that the value of £100 invested in the unit trust of my first choice will be worth £_____ (net income reinvested) on Tuesday, December 31st, 1985.

Send your completed entry form to: *Times Newspapers Ltd*, PO Box 7, New Printing House Square, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. To arrive not later than Thursday 31st January 1985.

PLEASE MARK YOUR ENVELOPE - UNIT TRUST COMPETITION.



America is number one for Jamie Berry (left): "The best value for money and we also favour Europe". Hong Kong gambler for Charles Fry: Hedging his bets with M & G American Recovery - "likely to show substantial gains if the Dow averages up to 1,400".

America is still the most popular choice for making profits in the coming year with five of the nine trusts chosen by our panel of experts for the 1985 Times Unit Trust Competition being invested in the United States.

Not all the experts have put America in first place - although all four have included an American trust in their selections.

Both Mr Jamie Berry and Mr Peter Hargreaves have opted for North America as a first choice. "This is the third consecutive year we have made an American fund our first choice", Mr Hargreaves said. "This year we have chosen a new small fund which is being managed by an insurance company, Sun Alliance, which runs funds with many millions of pounds in the United States."

"We believe that lower interest rates and the likely cut in defence spending will help close the American budget deficit and expect Wall Street to show considerable gains towards the end of the year."

Mr Jamie Berry picked an American income fund as the possible top performer in 1985. He said: "The outlook for all the world's stockmarkets will be heavily influenced by events in the US. We expect that interest rates will fall in 1985 but not by much, and that the various problems currently facing international investors will be perceived as less significant."



"No market will be capable of a sustained upward move without a lead from America and we prefer to invest in areas where shares are less highly rated than in the United Kingdom and Japan. Best value for money is America and we also favour Europe."

His second choice is Oppenheimer European Growth with Henderson North American in third place.

Most daring of the three panelists is Mr Charles Fry, who has taken a big gamble.

with Garmore Hong Kong. The last panelist who chose a Hong Kong fund did badly and lost his place. "Garmore Hong Kong gives total exposure to a market with considerable scope for profit. Property prices are firming, interest rates falling, political stability is assured and the residents work as hard as ever."

If he is right, he might well produce the best performance of any panelist. But Hong Kong is notoriously volatile and it is a

HOW TO ENTER

This is the last chance to enter *The Times Unit Trust Competition* and win £500. The experts' selections are reviewed above, but remember, they are not always right. To help you make your choice we have printed the performance figures of unit trusts over 11 months of the 1984 competition on page 39.

Fill in the coupon and return it to *The Times* not later than next Thursday. Mark your envelope *Times Unit Trust Competition*.

THE UNIT TRUST EXPERTS' SELECTIONS FOR 1985

Panel member	First choice	Second choice	Third choice
Jamie Berry	Fidelity American Equity Income	Oppenheimer European Growth	Henderson North American
Berry Asset Management	Profit High Income	Henderson American Recovery	Montagu Gold
Peter Edwards	Primer Unit Trust	John Govey UK Special Opportunities	Henderson European Smaller Companies
Primer Unit Trust	Sun Alliance North American	M&G American Recovery	Barrington European
Peter Hargreaves	Garmore Hong Kong		
Hargreaves Lansdowne			
Charles Fry			
John Fry & Co			

Attempt to ease pension fears

LAWSON'S PLEDGE ON PENSIONS

Pension hint by cautious Lawson

BUDGET THREAT TO THE SELF EMPLOYED

and those not in Company Pension Schemes

3 Vital Questions to answer before Budget Day, March 19.

1. Are you aware that under current legislation the size of your tax-free retirement nest egg is restricted by Parliament?
2. Did you know that the Chancellor is rumoured to be considering taxing this sum in the future?
3. Are you aware that a new Pension 'Extra Cash' Account can provide up to 54% more tax-free cash than existing plans... and with the full support of the Inland Revenue?

Please rush me details of how I can boost my tax-free nest egg on retirement by up to 54%.

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Name _____
Address _____

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700,000 Ordinary Shares of 10p each at 80p per share payable in full on application. The subscription lists will open at 10.00 am on Friday, 25th January 1985 and will be closed when the Offer is fully subscribed or at midnight on 3rd March 1985, unless extended prior to that date. No application has been or is proposed to be made for any part of the Company's share capital to be admitted to the Official List of the Stock Exchange or to the Unlisted Securities Market. Guidehouse Securities Limited has undertaken to arrange for an Over-the-Counter Market to be made in the Ordinary Shares of the Company within one month of the closing date of this Offer. Applications for and copies of the prospectus dated 22nd January 1985, upon the terms of which alone applications can be made, can be obtained from:

THE GUIDEHOUSE GROUP plc
Vesby House, Greyfriars Passage, Newgate Street,
London EC1A 7BA. 01-806 6321

If you're about to invest in a pension plan make sure it's the best on the market.



Pension Plan Results Value of Fund over 5 years assuming 6 annual premiums of £500 each. Amount Invested (allowing for tax relief at 30%). Source: Self Employed Pensions Handbook, published by the Financial Times.

"The accumulated cash sum results show unit-linked funds occupying the top three positions, with Target Managed way out in front."

The Times - Saturday 2nd June 1984

"There is no doubt that investors who had the fore-sight or luck to put money in the Target Managed Fund deserve a large dose of self-congratulation."

Executive Persons 1984 (Published by the Financial Times)

"One Company, Target Life, can actually boast an investment record that is so superior that it can afford to pay twice the pension of some of the others."

The Daily Telegraph - Saturday 17th March 1984

Target stole a march on its rivals, because the Managed Fund holds investments directly rather than putting money into other unit-linked funds within the group."

The Daily Telegraph - Saturday 17th March 1984

"The top cash fund for retirement at age 65 comes from Target Life's Managed Fund with a spectacularly good figure. This is clearly no fluke result since the same fund swept the honours board in our October 1982 survey."

Survey Management - June 1984

"Indeed the best performing contract in the survey was linked to Target's Managed Fund."

The Daily Telegraph - Saturday 17th March 1984

If you're self-employed or the director of a private company, you'll know all about the tax advantages of investing in a pension plan.

Your biggest problem will be selecting the best from the rest.

Obviously, the most important factor will be the size of your pension fund when you retire.

All too often, this decision is taken as a result of comparing projected growth figures, whereas the only realistic basis for comparison is achieved growth.

The table above compares the actual results of an investment in the Target Personal Pension Plan - linked to the Target Managed Pension Fund - with five of the market leaders in individual pensions.

What it doesn't show, however, is that the Target plan has out-performed all other similar plans over the last five years.

What's more, only the Target plan provides you with a guaranteed loanback facility enabling you to draw on your investment whenever you like (subject to acceptable security), with no additional management charges.

And, with Target, you're not committed to keeping up

a regular payment. You can vary your level of investment to suit your personal circumstances.

Except, of course, with a growth record like ours, we think you'll want to invest more rather than less.

To find out more, fill out the Freepost coupon below.

Please let me have further information on the Target Pension Plan.

Name _____
Age _____ Occupation _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Business tel. no. _____
Send to: Dept MF, Target Life Assurance Co. Ltd., Freepost, Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 3YA. Tel: Aylesbury (0296) 5941.

TARGET
TARGET GROUP PLC

UNIT TRUSTS - LIFE ASSURANCE - PENSIONS - FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Invest in one of this country's Top Performing Unit Trusts.

Planned Savings

Over five years the investment trust share performances show up even better. Although M.L.A. the best unit trust, is far ahead of the rest of the field all the other unit trusts in the table are comfortably outperformed by M.L.A. investment trust shares - by over 40% in some cases. But on asset performance the investment trusts fall far behind: M.L.A. the top of the list, is over 120% below M.L.A.

June 1984

MONEY OBSERVER

The honour for the best performing fund over seven years goes to M.L.A. a UK general fund. It has produced a handsome gain of 1,009 per cent over that period, a success that denied 'Financial International Recovery' the top honour.

March 1984

PROFESSIONAL FUND MANAGERS WITH A PROVEN TRACK RECORD

Investing in M.L.A. Unit Trust means you will be able to enjoy the support of one of this country's top investment fund management teams. The extracts above illustrate how successful their performance has been over the last 8½ years.

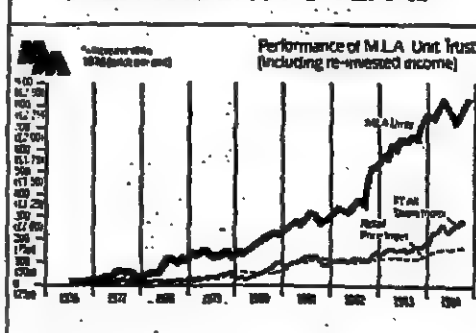
£10,000 HAS GROWN TO £131,530

£10,000 invested with these Managers in June 1976, when they launched their highly successful M.L.A. Unit Trust, had grown in value to a staggering £131,530 by 8th January 1985, including re-invested income. This represents an increase of 1215% on that original investment.

THE AIM OF THE FUND MANAGERS

This success is due to the Fund Managers' freedom within the

THE FUND HAS ACHIEVED AN AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE IN THE VALUE OF UNITS OF 33.3%* OVER THE LAST 8 YEARS



terms of the Trust Deed to invest wherever they consider they will obtain the maximum growth for investors in terms of capital and income growth. This freedom is highlighted by the team's achievement in putting M.L.A. in the top position over a period of 3, 5 and 7 years* among all UK

General Trusts and has earned it the confidence of professionals, both investors and advisers.

HELP IMPROVE YOUR EXISTING INVESTMENT STRATEGY

You too could benefit from their success by investing as little as £500 or as much as you like. You will receive a 1% discount on your investment.

And to complement your existing portfolio, a regular income withdrawal plan is now also available. Ring for details.

Investment in unit trusts should be regarded as long term and you are reminded that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

Price and Yield of M.L.A. Unit Trust as at 18.1.85

Offer Price: 273.5p (pd)

Yield: 2.05%

MANAGERS: M.L.A. Unit Trust Management Ltd., part of the Municipal Mutual Insurance Group, 22 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9JG.
TRUSTEES: Midland Bank Trust Company Ltd., 15 Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1AQ.
GENERAL INFORMATION: An initial charge of 5% is included in the offer price and a half-yearly charge of 1% of the net asset value of the fund is deducted from gross income to meet the expenses of the Managers. Net income is distributed on 31st January and 31st July together with a dividend certificate and a half-yearly report. The trust is authorised by the Department of Trade and Industry and is regulated by a Trust Deed dated 11th May 1976. The fund is a company and the offer is made in the UK and Daily Telegraph. Units will be sold in daily lots of £100 and will be dealt with at the price ruling on the first working day following the date of receipt of instructions.

The initial purchase is £500; thereafter units may be bought in multiples of £100. Units are bought back at not less than the bid price calculated in accordance with the formula approved by the Department of Trade and Industry.
A cheque or settlement will normally be sent within seven working days of receipt by the Managers of the required unit certificate.
Contract Notes will be issued and unit certificates will be provided within six weeks of payment. Unit trusts are not subject to capital gains tax.
Moreover, unitholders will also be exempt from paying this tax unless their total realized gains in any tax year exceed £5,600.
The information in the advertisement is based on our present understanding of relevant financial practices and current tax legislation, January 1985.

Application Form

To: M.L.A. Unit Trust Management Ltd., Freepost, Westminster, SW1H 9BR. Telephone: 01-222 0311. I/We would like to buy M.L.A. Units to the value of £_____ (minimum £500) at the price ruling on the date of receipt of these instructions.

A cheque payable to M.L.A. Unit Trust Management Ltd. is enclosed. I/We declare that I am/we are over 18.

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Title) (BLOCK LETTERS, PLEASE)

First name(s) in full

Address

Post Code

Signature(s)

(Joint applicants should all sign and attach addresses separately) Registered in England No. 1242681. Not available in the Republic of Ireland.

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Special National

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FAMILY MONEY

MEDICAL COVER

BUPA in good health despite competition

The private health insurance market has been in a state of flux since the beginning of the decade with a rash of commercial companies joining the market traditionally dominated by the three provident associations, BUPA, PPP and WPA. BUPA with over 60 per cent of the market clearly had the most to lose from the intrusion of the newcomers.

Mr Bob Graham, BUPA's chief executive, said: "Many companies which were lured away by cheap quotes have returned, preferring our overall stability and high standards of service". BUPA has over 35,000 groups, including 90 of the Times Top 100 Companies. These group schemes accounts for about two-thirds of the insurers' business.

While BUPA and PPP have been tackling their problems by trying to cut costs by classifying hospitals so that subscribers pay different rates according to the class of hospital, the commercial companies have been bringing out novel cost-cutting schemes for the consumer.

The CrownCare scheme, run by Crown Life, is the only one to offer a "no-claims" bonus system - something quite familiar to car owners. Crown subscribers start with a nominal 30 per cent discount and can boost this to a maximum of 40 per cent discount, but any claim

would set you back by two years' discount although you would never be charged more than the basic rate.

Mr Peter Dalby, Crown's marketing manager, believes that half the claims under medical insurance are for less than £100 a year. Cutting out these claims substantially reduces the administration costs of a scheme and allows the insurers to lower premiums. Critics say that it would discourage people from seeing medical attention for their ailments, but any major illness would be worth claiming for.

Crown also cut premiums by 15 per cent if subscribers agree to pay the first £100 of any claim under the comprehensive Mastercare plan. The aftercare policy which is 30 per cent cheaper than Mastercare cuts out the frills - it does not cover out-patient treatment alone or home nursing and does not offer the £20-a-night cash benefit if you go into hospital as a National Health Service patient. As an added benefit both policies offer £50,000 of worldwide travel cover which stretches to insuring your baggage and money as well as medical fees for any trip overseas up to 90 days - with just one exception: wintersports holidays.

BCWA (Bristol Contributory Welfare Association), the fourth

largest provident society which is celebrating its golden jubilee this year, aims to have a good spread of young healthy people on its books by offering the under-30s a special deal. Their premiums will rise to the 30-to-41-year-old age bracket at their 30th birthday but they can stay at this rate as long as they remain members. Although BCWA customarily restricts the scheme to the under-65s, sometimes those aged 65 to 69 are taken on the books for a 33% per cent surcharge.

While premiums at BUPA and PPP are raised twice a year to keep pace with rising "medical inflation", BCWA's January 1984 prices are still in operation although they are under review. Last year BUPA put up its rates by between 12 and 15 per cent and PPP by an average of 15 per cent.

But while PPP has only introduced its banding of hospitals into different grades for corporate policies, it has introduced a cost-cutting innovation for private subscribers. The Private Hospital Plan only pays for private hospital treat-

ment when NHS waiting lists are longer than six weeks. A man and wife aged 30 to 39 with two children with a 15 per cent discount for being a member of a trade or professional group and paying by direct debit would pay either £30.93, £49.37 or £75.80 a month depending on the level of cover for standard PPP cover but just £18.65 a month for Private Hospital Plan.

Retirement Health Plan offers the same scheme to jump the NHS queues to new subscribers between 65 and 74 years old. The plan has an overall maximum of £17,000 and costs £13.40 a month for 69-year-olds, £18.10 for 70 to 74-year-olds and £24.20 for 75-year-olds.

While different insurance companies and different plans put different limits on bed charges and surgeons' fees, it means you have to check that the cover you choose is sufficient to meet the bills at

any of your local hospitals without leaving you out of pocket.

But Orion, the British subsidiary of a Dutch group, has a simple £20,000 limit on its insurance for you to spend as you please. "Medical insurance is a minefield", Mr Nigel Dyer, Orion's marketing manager, said. "You do not need a PhD to understand our plan and you need not worry that your level of cover is not enough". There are just two scales of premiums: one covering the South-East, the other the rest of the country.

The AMI chain with 11 hospitals in Britain has produced a booklet showing the complete range of cover offered by leading insurers for room charges and surgeons' fees. Copies of the booklet are available from AMI Hospitals, 4, Cornwall Terrace, London NW1 4QP.

While different insurance companies and different plans put different limits on bed charges and surgeons' fees, it means you have to check that the cover you choose is sufficient to meet the bills at

Vivien Goldsmith

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Telephone (day)

Baltic Asset Management Ltd, Freeport, London EC3A 2AE Tel: 01-626 1533

PREMIUM ACCESS ACCOUNT (2nd Issue)

Better this.

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NET INTEREST PA*	9.00%	
GROSS INTEREST PA*	12.86%	
WITHDRAWAL NOTICE	IMMEDIATE	
INTEREST LOST	No Penalty	
EXTRA INTEREST	1.50%	
MINIMUM INVESTMENT PERIOD	None	

*Interest rates are variable and assume income tax paid at 30%. Interest is calculated daily and added to the account annually.

Bradford & Bingley's Premium Access Account offers you extra interest. Without any of the extra strings.

As long as you keep £1,000 in your account, you receive 9.00% net annual interest. This rate is variable and is currently 1.5% above nominal Ordinary Account Rate, but is not linked to it.

You can also withdraw money on demand, without paying any penalties.

Should your balance fall below £1,000 you still receive the nominal Ordinary Account Rate.

The maximum investment is £30,000 but

this doubles to £60,000 for a joint account. There's no obligation to invest for any length of time either.

So if you are interested in getting more for your money, take a look at Bradford & Bingley's incomparable terms.

For further information and a brochure on this or any other Bradford & Bingley investment, just telephone our Investor Advice Bureau or post the coupon today.

INVESTOR ADVICE BUREAU DIAL 100 AND ASK FOR FREEPHONE BRADFORD & BINGLEY.

To FREEPOST (no stamp needed) Bradford & Bingley Building Society, West Yorks, BD16 2BR. Please send me full details of Premium Access Account without obligation. T261

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Bristol Contributory Welfare Association
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Please send me details of the Private Patients Scheme
I am aged under 65 ☐ For Individuals ☐ For Companies
For members of Professional/Trade Associations ☐
Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

Gartmore's

Investment Action Report on Hong Kong

For a Free Review of the Hong Kong Stockmarket and its future prospects, from the Managers of the best performing Hong Kong Trust last year, write to:

GARTMORE

Gartmore Fund Managers Ltd., 2 St Mary Axe, London EC3A 8BP
Tel: Freephone 2621 (24 hours) or during office hours 01-623 1212
Please send me the Hong Kong Stock Market Review

Name

Address

Postcode

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8.84% net p.a.

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When half yearly interest is paid out

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ALLEYVALE HOUSE, 14 ALLEYVALE ROAD

WIMBORNE, DORSET BH21 1AG

Tel: 0982 85717

Please send investment details to:

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss)

Address

Postcode

Shares and deposits in the Society are Trustee Investments

Members of the Building Societies Association and

Investors' Protection Scheme.

FRAMLINGTON PERSONAL PENSIONS

a better way of investing for your retirement

Anyone with a non-pensionable job can benefit from the Framlington scheme.

The main features which mark it out are as follows:

1. You do not have to commit yourself to more than one payment.
2. You can choose your own Framlington unit trusts, or invest through the Framlington Pensions Managed Fund. Either way you will benefit from Framlington's established investment management ability.
3. 100 per cent of your investment will go into Framlington unit trusts. Alternatively, you can choose a 3 per cent deduction to obtain life assurance cover.
4. You can make investments at any age under 75. You can take up your benefits at any time between age 60 and age 75.
5. You can take all your benefits as a pension or use part of your accumulated fund to provide a cash sum on your retirement, as you wish.
6. The value of your pension (including the optional cash sum) will always be the full value of the units allocated to your Framlington Personal Pension.
7. Your pension can be secured through an annuity from Framlington or from any other company offering better rates at the time, as you wish.
8. Contributions to Framlington Personal Pensions are normally fully allowable against tax. The whole of your investment builds up free of all income and capital gains taxes. And the optional cash sum on retirement would also be tax free.

Simplicity, flexibility, tax efficiency and investment ability are all hallmarks of the Framlington scheme. In addition, the scheme is exceptionally cost-effective. There are no charges apart from the charges within the funds.

THE INVESTMENT CHOICE

Contributions to Framlington Personal Pensions can be invested in any of nine Framlington unit trusts listed below or in the Framlington Pensions Managed Fund, which is itself invested in a spread of Framlington trusts. For standard Personal Pensions (i.e. with no guaranteed life assurance cover), 100 per cent of contributions are invested in units at the offer price ruling when your cheque is received. If you choose to have guaranteed life assurance, 97 per cent of contributions are invested.

The Framlington Unit Trusts

Name of Unit Trust	Date Launched	Investment Objective
Capital Growth Trust	January 1969	Capital growth with an average yield — by investing mainly in small U.K. growth companies.
International Growth Fund	October 1976	Capital growth — by investing on a worldwide basis.
American & General Fund	April 1978	Capital growth — by investing in North American smaller companies.
American Turnaround Fund	October 1979	Capital growth — by investing in North American recovery situations.
Extra Income Trust	February 1980	High income, together with some growth of both income and capital.
Convertible & Gilt Trust	February 1981	High income with capital growth — by investing in convertible loan stocks and Government securities.
Recovery Trust	April 1982	Capital growth — by investing in recovery situations, mainly in the U.K.
Japan & General Fund	February 1984	Capital growth — by investing in the Far East, primarily in Japan.

The Framlington Pensions Managed Fund
Many investors will prefer to leave the selection of their investments to Framlington, through the Pensions Managed Fund. This is invested in a spread of Framlington unit trusts chosen and managed by Framlington. It will be actively managed and the proportions in different trusts may vary considerably over the years. From time to time part of the fund may be held in cash through the Framlington Pensions Cash Fund.

The Framlington Pensions Cash Fund

The Pensions Cash Fund is not available for initial investment, but you can switch any of your Framlington Personal Pension policies into it without charge at any time. The fund is invested in deposits with banks and local authorities and similar investments, with the objective of obtaining the highest yield consistent with total security of capital.

Following the Progress of your Pension Investment

Your contributions will be invested in accumulation units of the Framlington unit trust (a) or in units of the Framlington Pensions Managed Fund at the offer price (b) ruling on the day your Application Form and cheque are received. The prices of the Pensions Managed Fund and all the trusts are calculated each working day and are published in several leading daily newspapers. Two prices are shown for the units of each fund: the offer price (at which units are allocated) and the bid price (which is used to determine the value of the policy).

There is only one price for the Framlington Pensions Cash Fund, which is recalculated each week (normally on Friday). This is used both for allocating units and in calculating the value of your policy.

For the Pensions Managed Fund and the Pensions Cash Fund, the gross income received is retained within the Funds and thus builds up the value of the units. For the unit trusts, the net income is retained in the funds and goes to increase the value of the units. The tax charged on the income is reclaimed from the Inland Revenue by Framlington Life and is invested in further units on your behalf.

You will be sent a statement each year showing the number and value of units allocated to your Framlington Personal Pension. Regular managers' reports for each of the trusts and for the Framlington Pensions Managed Fund and the Framlington Pensions Cash Fund will also be available from Framlington Life.

Switching between Funds

Over the years investment conditions change and you may feel that you wish to change the investment links for your Framlington Personal Pension. In particular, when you are approaching retirement, you might wish to switch to the Framlington Pensions Cash Fund. This would ensure that you would not suffer from any short-term fluctuations in the value of your accumulated pension fund immediately before your retirement. If you do decide to switch your policy (ies) to the Pensions Cash Fund, your existing units will be valued (at bid price) and this value will be applied to secure units in the Pensions Cash Fund at the price ruling on the day your instructions are received.

If you switch to the Pensions Managed Fund or to a unit trust (from another unit trust), the Pensions Managed Fund or the Pensions Cash Fund, the existing units will be valued at bid price and the units of the new Trust will be allocated at the offer price ruling on the day your instructions are received, less a discount of 3%.

It should be noted that Framlington reserves the right to vary the discount at any time in the future or to impose a charge for switching to the Pensions Cash Fund.

ELIGIBILITY

You can invest in a Framlington Personal Pension if you have any earnings from non-pensionable employment. You can therefore take out a Personal Pension if:

1. You are self-employed.
2. Your employer does not have a pension scheme.
3. Your employer has a pension scheme but you are not a member of it.
4. You are a partner in a partnership.
5. You are the sole proprietor of a business.
6. You have consultancy or other earnings (apart from your main income from employment) which are non-pensionable.

HOW MUCH ARE YOU ALLOWED TO INVEST?

The minimum investment is £500. The maximum amount you can invest is laid down by Government legislation and is based on your "net relevant earnings". These are your gross earnings (other than any earnings from employment which carries pension rights), less expenses connected with running your own business — including stock relief and capital allowances.

If you were born in 1934 or later you can contribute 17½% of your net relevant earnings to a personal pension plan. If you were born in 1933 or earlier, you can make larger contributions as shown below:

Year of Birth	Percentage of Net Relevant Earnings
1916-1933	20%
1914 or 1915	21%
1912 or 1913	24%
1910 or 1911	26½%

There are provisions for carrying back contributions to the preceding tax year and for carrying forward unused relief to a subsequent year; details are available from Framlington or from your professional adviser.

HOW MUCH SHOULD YOU INVEST?

Because of the outstanding tax advantages, it can be argued that you should invest the maximum permitted every year. On the other hand, even with tax relief you may not be able to afford the maximum.

If it were possible to make realistic projections it would be easier to suggest the amount you should invest. Many insurance companies do quote projections. In our

view, however, these can be dangerously misleading. They are normally only arithmetical projections of rates of growth and annuity rates chosen arbitrarily. They cannot cater for changes in inflation rates or variations in investment performance. We believe it is more realistic to choose as efficient as possible a scheme and then to put as much as you can into it.

As a guide, and accepting that your own personal circumstances may dictate a different proportion, we urge you to invest at least the following proportions of your net relevant earnings in personal pension plans:

Age	5%
Under 25	5%
25-35	10%
35-45	15%
Over 45	17½%

(If you were born in 1933 or earlier you should invest the maximum allowed).

TAX ADVANTAGES

Investing in a personal pension plan has significant tax advantages over every other method of saving and investing.

1. **Tax relief on contributions**
Provided your contributions fall within the rules you can obtain full income tax relief on them at the highest rate you currently pay. Thus if you are a basic rate taxpayer, a contribution of £1,000 will in effect cost you only £700. If your top rate of tax is 60% a contribution of £1,000 should cost you only £400.
2. **Tax-free investment growth**
Your contributions are invested by Framlington Life in units of Framlington unit trusts, either directly, or through the Framlington Pensions Managed Fund. Unit trusts are exempt from capital gains tax and so are pension plans. Pension plans are also exempt from income tax; Framlington Life is therefore able to claim back and reinvest on your behalf the income tax charged on the income distributed by the unit trusts. The Pensions Managed Fund and Pensions Cash Fund are not liable to any capital gains or income taxes.

3. **Tax-free cash sum on retirement**
Under current legislation you are entitled to take a cash sum, which is completely free of tax, as part of your pension.

THE BENEFITS ON RETIREMENT

No Fixed Retirement Date

You can take the benefits from your Framlington Personal Pension at any time between the ages of 60 and 75; the latest date on which you are allowed by law to start drawing your pension is your 75th birthday. You do not have to decide on your retirement date now.

If you are in an occupation where the normal retirement age is below 60, you can usually take your pension at this lower age, subject to Inland Revenue approval.

You can also take the benefits earlier than age 60 if you have to retire early because of ill-health.

At whatever age you take the benefits, the full value of your accumulated fund will be made available to you. No deductions of any sort are made on early retirement.

Pensions and Cash Sum at Retirement
At retirement you can choose between

using the whole value of your accumulated fund to provide a pension and taking part of the benefits as a tax-free cash sum, with the balance providing a pension. If you decide to take part of your benefits in cash, the amount must not be more than three times the annual pension provided by the remainder.

You may choose a pension of a fixed amount or one which starts at a lower level but escalates by a fixed percentage (up to 10%) each year. You can also choose between a pension for your lifetime alone, one guaranteed for 5 years and one which would continue to be paid to your widow (or widower) if you were to die first.

The pension can be paid monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or annually as you prefer. You also have a choice of who will actually provide the benefits:

1. Through the "Open Market Option". At retirement you can use the fund built up through your Framlington Personal Pension to purchase a pension at the best rates obtainable from any company in the market.
2. From Framlington Life. The rates available will depend upon conditions at the time and may not be as good as you would be able to obtain through the "Open Market Option".

BENEFITS ON DEATH BEFORE RETIREMENT

If you have taken out a standard Framlington Personal Pension, with 100% of your contribution being invested in units, the amount payable on death will be the full value (at bid price) of the units allocated to your policy. If you have a Framlington Personal Pension which includes guaranteed life assurance benefits, with 97% of your contribution being invested in units, the amount payable on death before age 60 or, if applicable, any earlier retirement date, will be the greater of the value of the units allocated to your policy and the guaranteed sum assured. The sum assured depends on your age when you start your Framlington Personal Pension:

Age next birthday	Guaranteed sum assured for each £1,000 of contribution
25 or less	£3,000
26-30	£2,700
31-35	£2,400
36-40	£2,000
41-45	£1,800
46-50	£1,600
51-55	£1,500

The guaranteed life assurance benefits are not available to people who are aged 55 or more when taking out a Framlington Personal Pension. On death after age 60, if you have not started taking your pension, the amount payable will be the value of units in all cases.

MANAGEMENT CHARGES

Unless you have chosen to have the life assurance option for which a 3% deduction is made, 100% of your contributions are invested on your behalf. There are no extra charges over and above the normal annual

and initial charges for the unit trusts.

The annual charge, which is deducted from the income of each trust, is currently only 1.5% (+ VAT) of the value of the fund. The Trust Deed of each unit trust does however give the managers powers to increase this to a maximum of 1%. The initial charge, which is included in the offer price of the units, is 5%.

There are at present no direct annual charges for the Framlington Pensions Managed Fund — although the normal annual charges are deducted for the unit trusts (or the Framlington Pensions Cash Fund — 1.5%), in which it is invested. The initial charge for the Pensions Managed Fund, which is included in the offer price of the units, is 5%; the prices of the Fund take account of the initial charges of the unit trusts — so there is no "double-charging".

Commission is paid to agents at the same rate as for Framlington unit trusts, currently 1½%.

LOAN FACILITIES

Loan facilities can be provided by Courts Finance Co. Details are available on request.

NOTES

1. This advertisement is based on Framlington Life's understanding of legislation and Inland Revenue practice as at 1st January 1985.

2. Framlington Life can take no responsibility for determining whether or not contributions to Framlington Personal Pensions fall within the eligibility limits for the individuals concerned. If you are in any doubt whether your contributions will attract tax relief, you should consult a professional adviser.

3. All allocations to units under the Framlington Personal Pension are notional and merely for the purposes of determining the value of your policy; references to "investment" and "invested" should not be construed as conferring any right to the underlying units.

4. This advertisement is intended to provide information about Framlington Personal Pensions. Rights as between investors and Framlington Life will be governed solely by the terms of the policies. A specimen policy document for Framlington Personal Pensions can be obtained from Framlington Life Insurance Limited, 3 London Wall Buildings, London Wall, EC2M 5NQ.

Unit trusts invest in securities with prices that fluctuate and you should be aware that the price of units linked to Framlington Personal Pensions and the income from them reinvested on your behalf may go down as well as up.

HOW TO APPLY

Simply complete the Application Form and send it with your cheque to:

Framlington Life Insurance Limited, 3 London Wall Buildings, London Wall, London EC2M 5NQ. Telephone No. 01-628 5181.

Separate policies will be issued for each trust (or the Pensions Managed Fund) you select. The minimum investment per policy is £500.

SPECIAL ONE PER CENT DISCOUNT OFFER UNTIL 5 APRIL 1985

Please send completed form to Framlington Life Insurance Limited, 3 London Wall Buildings, London Wall, London EC2M 5NQ.

PROPOSER Please use block capitals

SURNAME Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms/Ms

FULL FORENAMES

DATE OF BIRTH

OCCUPATION

ADDRESS

CONTRIBUTION

I enclose my cheque (payable to "Framlington Life Insurance Limited") for a single premium Framlington Personal Pension. I wish the premium to be applied for investment in the Framlington Pensions Managed Fund or Framlington Unit Trusts, at the offer price (a) ruling on receipt of this application, less 1% discount if received before 3pm on 5th April 1985, as follows:

(Insert "Pensions Managed Fund" or name of trust)

Total Premium

ELIGIBILITY

1. Are you engaged on your own account or as a partner personally in some trade, profession or occupation?

2. (a) Are you an employed person (or the holder of an office or employment)?

2. (b) If YES, is one or more of your occupations non-pensionable? (Note: An occupation is pensionable if in connection therewith you are a member of a sponsored superannuation scheme which is any scheme or arrangement from which you expect to receive a retirement benefit, whether in lump sum or pension form, which will not have been wholly provided out of your own resources.)

ADDITIONAL LIFE ASSURANCE COVER

Do you wish 3% of your total premium to be used to secure guaranteed life assurance cover?

Please Tick Appropriate Box

Yes ☐ No ☐

If YES please answer the questions below by ticking the appropriate box and sign the "Additional Declaration" below. If the answer to any of the questions is YES, please attach details separately (including the names and addresses of any doctors or hospitals you have consulted).

1. Have you any reason to believe you are not in good health?

Yes ☐ No ☐

2. Have you consulted a doctor or received any medical treatment in the last five years (common cold, influenza, normal pregnancy and any obviously minor conditions need not be mentioned)?

Yes ☐ No ☐

3. Are you likely to participate in aviation (other than as a fare-paying passenger) or in any hazardous pursuit or sport?

Yes ☐ No ☐

DECLARATION

I declare that the statements contained in this Application are true and complete and that I have Not Relevant Earnings taxed in the U.K. I agree that this Application shall be the basis of the proposed contract between me and Framlington Life Insurance Limited to provide benefits payable under Section 226A of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970. I further understand that no benefit under the contract shall be payable of being surrendered nor any person assigned or commuted except as permitted by Section 226 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970.

Signed _____ Date _____

Additional Declaration (This need only be signed if you are applying for additional life assurance cover)

I agree that this Application, including the information under the section headed Additional Life Assurance Cover, shall be the basis of a separate contract between me and Framlington Life Insurance Limited to provide benefits payable under Section 226A of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970. I consent to Framlington Life seeking medical information from any doctor or hospital I have consulted and I authorise the giving of such information.

Signed _____ Date _____

Registered Office as above. Registered in England No. 1689376

FRAMLINGTON PERSONAL PENSIONS

Success may be too heavy a burden for Chelsea

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

Chelsea, the latest club to pay for their success, are walking into a fixture pile-up as deep as any snowdrift. Ipswich Town, Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur have in recent years suffered from the same fate and only Liverpool have managed to surmount the difficulties presented by the English system and the weather.

Chelsea's burden will be lightened only if they lose their FA Cup third round replay at Wigan this afternoon and their Milk Cup quarter-final against Sheffield Wednesday, which with the permission of the Football Association they will stage on Monday night. If they win those ties, their schedule will become unreasonably heavy. If they draw either or particularly both, it will become absurdly so.

They could within the next 17 days be involved in eight games in three competitions. Should they be held again by Wigan, the second replay will take place on Thursday and the winners will meet Millwall at home on the following Monday. At least today's delayed match at Springfield Park is unlikely to be postponed.

That will be of little consequence to Jones. He won a silver salver and the recognition of Bobby Robson, the England manager, who chose him as the youngest player to start in the FA Cup for Chelsea last year. He was expected to take over in midfield.

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Ayr may witness Highland fling

By Hugh Taylor

For romantics, the dark aspect of the Scottish Cup is that the Goliaths always appear to overcome the David. Indeed, the years have to be rolled back as far as 1968 to find club outsiders in the elite trio of Rangers, Celtic and Aberdeen who have won the trophy. That was Dunkermine Athletic, who now languish in the second division. Not since 1967 has there been an upset that can equal that of Glasgow Rangers' defeat by Berwick Rangers.

The weather has wrecked today's programme, but, curiously, has given one of the "rabbits" a chance of bringing romance to the tournament. A game which yesterday seemed certain to be played is that between Ayr United and Keith, the Highland League club who have made the long journey from the frozen north to find the pitch hard but playable.

That brought a smile to the face of the Keith manager, Jimmy Wilson, once a perky winger with Aberdeen. The little man, who played before 127,117 at Hampden in the 1967 Scottish Cup Final, is convinced his hardy Highlanders can beat their first division opponents.

"And don't say this would be an upset," he said. "While it is true the state of the ground will be to our advantage, they are not out of sorts much difference between the first division and the Highland League. We have become much more professional up in the north and we have won the North of Scotland qualifying cup for the first time in 22 years. We have still to toast ourselves for that but I would dearly love to have a double celebration in Ayr after the game."

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The wrecked Renault of Derek Warwick after the British driver crashed at 184mph at Estoril. He was unhurt

RUGBY UNION

Nottingham must wait for Andrew

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Nottingham's prospects of playing Rob Andrew, the England stand-off, in their third round John Player Special Cup tie with Northampton at Beeston today rest upon a fitness test to be conducted this morning. Andrew made his debut for the Midlands club last Saturday but has been receiving treatment for a bruised thigh, as well as contending with the slight groin strain which has plagued him since his return from the tour.

The hasty insertion of Andrew in the team, despite his cap-wearing intention of working in London when he has completed his time at Cambridge University this summer, must be viewed as a statement of intent by Nottingham that they consider the England prop making only his seventh club appearance this season. Incidentally, the training evening for England forwards next Monday evening has been switched from Gloucester to Stourbridge.

Drane is the man displaced since Hodgkinson reverts to his former position of full back, leaving space for Andrew. He is out of sorts much difference between the first division and the Highland League. We have become much more professional up in the north and we have won the North of Scotland qualifying cup for the first time in 22 years. We have still to toast ourselves for that but I would dearly love to have a double celebration in Ayr after the game."

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GOLF

Wadkins sets tough task for Europeans

From John Ballantine, Los Angeles

Lanny Wadkins, with a record-equaling 63, led 63 players who had matched or bettered the par of 71 into the second round of the Los Angeles Open at Riviera.

The low scoring made qualifying a difficult task for the four Europeans. Peter Oosterhuis's 70 was the best, followed by Nick Faldo on 72 and Ken Brown (73) and Bernhard Langer (75).

Hal Sutton, who won the 1983 PGA Championship here by beating Jack Nicklaus in a tight finish, put pressure on Wadkins, due on the course at the end of the field, when he opened the second day with three birdies to catch the leader at eight under par.

The opening round ended with Wadkins leading by two shots from Peter Oosterhuis and Tony Sills, the latter of whom is a local professional aged 29, who had major stomach surgery a few years ago. Just behind were two substantial groups, with Bruce Lietzke, Gary Koch, Scott Simpson and Mark O'Meara among eight on 67.

Oosterhuis went out in 34 with birdies at the third and sixth and went four under par with two sixes on the tenth and fourth, but he later dropped two strokes.

Faldo took three putts twice, once from only four feet, while Langer hit three balls out of bounds in an outward 42 but returned in 33.

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ATHLETICS

Budd is quickly at home indoors

By Rat Butcher

Zola Budd won her first ever indoor race at the women's AAA Championships at Coxford last night in a 1,500 metres heat in 4min 20.95secs. There was an element of the media stage-management about the two heats, since 14 athletes would normally run in a straight line to avoid trouble. Budd stayed last of five for the first lap of the seven and a half laps, took the lead with five laps to go and won by 25 metres.

Miss Budd's record breaking and media impact over the last year have tended to obscure her relative inexperience. Last night's race at Coxford was her first indoor competition, and next Saturday she gets her first taste of English cross-country when she runs in the Southern Counties championships at Ipswich.

The weather in her native South Africa has been the principal reason for the two omissions in her programme. A hot climate precludes the need for indoor stadiums, and cross-country courses tend to be very hard and/or scrubland. And, as she pointed out, only two days ago, when snow was falling fast over Birmingham, in my last cross-country race in South Africa, 80 people were treated for heat exposure.

It is the weather conditions in Lisbon on March 24 for the world cross-country championship that are now interesting her. Miss Budd is now considering racing in Lisbon, which she would expect for her first visit to the Olympic 3,000 metres. Her slight frame is ideally suited to the undulations of cross-country. Her speed and endurance, allied to her smallest determination, could make her a match for anyone, including Marica Pulica, the world champion from Romania.

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Owen may return after one-year absence

Kiary Owen, a former captain of the England Under-21 team will not know until today whether he is to return to the West Bromwich Albion side for the re-arranged first division game against Queens Park Rangers at the Hawthorns.

The midfielder, player who has been out for a year after breaking a leg at West Ham last January, is fit again and has been named in the squad. But Owen competes with Whitehead and Robson for the place in Albion's midfield vacated by the Albion international, Hunt, who is recovering from a minor knee operation.

Byrne, Robinson and James, all ineligible for Queen's Park Rangers' midweek Milk Cup quarter-final at Ipswich, are recalled.

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By Paul Barker
Budd is quickly at home indoors

White lines up for record in Masters
By Sydney Friskin

Hollinshead colt can upstage Triumph Hurdle favourite
By Mandarin

RACING: OUT OF THE GLOOM HAS THE FORM TO BEAT JOHN JENKINS' HIGHLY-RATED CONTENDER
Josh Gifford's Door Latch, who is fancied to resume his winning ways in the Holstein Distributors Chase at Cheltenham this afternoon.

O'Neill gains double first at Wincanton
John O'Neill, visiting Wincanton for the first time, rode a 25-1 double on Mariner's Dream and Barret's Retreat.

Specialists at four meetings
CHELTENHAM
GOING: soft
Total: Double 2.10, 3.20, Treble: 1.35, 2.45, 3.55.

Sunday

CHANNEL 4

CHANNEL 4

- 1.05 Irish Angle.** With the Irish budget due on Wednesday the programme examines the second of the country's major economic government over the past 18 months.
- 1.30 Face the Press.** Anthony Howard is in the chair as Patrick Jenkin is questioned by Carol Vorderman, The Guardian and Adam Raphael of The Observer.
- 2.00 A Question of Economics.** Part three of the 20-part economic series that is designed to make modern economics more comprehensible. Today's edition examines the similarities and the important differences that exist between the 1980s with its highest unemployment for 50 years and the 1930s its forefathers.
- 2.25 Film: Give My Regards to Blackie** (1984) Directed by Dan Dacre, Charles Wingerling, Nancy Guld and Charlie Ruggles. Sentimental musical about a former vaudeville star who finds his way back to follow in his footsteps only to find they want to go in other directions. Directed by Lloyd Bacon.
- 4.05 Silent Laughter?** One Week, a comedy sketch show made in 1920, starring Buster Keaton.
- 4.30 Countdown.** Anagrams and mental arithmetic game.
- 5.00 The Amateur Naturalist.** Gerald Durrell and his wife Lee examine the creatures that inhabit New York.
- 5.30 News summary** and weather followed by **The Business Programme.** A report on Lloyds of London's Syndicate 895 includes an interview with Ian Hay Davidson, chief executive of Lloyds.
- 6.15 Australian Rules Football.** The first of three programmes of highlights from the climax of the 1984 season. This evening's programme features Collingwood and Fitzroy.
- 7.15 Spirit of Whitley.** Writer and broadcaster, Tom Vernon, visits the north Yorkshire coastal town.
- 8.15 Juliet Julia.** Migenes Johnson in the second of her three programmes of music, intruques guests, Cantabile and Stephen Tait.
- 9.15 The Price.** Episode three and Geoffrey Carr's efforts to raise the ransom money cause a run on his company's shares and his bedroom colleagues turn against him (r).
- 10.20 Film: Show Boat** (1936) starring Irene Dunne, Allan

ng 7.45 Bishop Bk Thomp
elodies For You.† 9.02: 10.

Blossom. Directed by James Whale.

12.25 Close down.

Including 7.45 Bishop Bill Thompson, 8.00 Melodisc For You! 8.02, 10.02, 10.03, 10.04, 10.05, 10.06, 10.07, 10.08, 10.09, 10.10, 10.11, 10.12, 10.13, 10.14, 10.15, 10.16, 10.17, 10.18, 10.19, 10.20, 10.21, 10.22, 10.23, 10.24, 10.25, 10.26, 10.27, 10.28, 10.29, 10.30, 10.31, 10.32, 10.33, 10.34, 10.35, 10.36, 10.37, 10.38, 10.39, 10.40, 10.41, 10.42, 10.43, 10.44, 10.45, 10.46, 10.47, 10.48, 10.49, 10.50, 10.51, 10.52, 10.53, 10.54, 10.55, 10.56, 10.57, 10.58, 10.59, 11.00, 11.01, 11.02, 11.03, 11.04, 11.05, 11.06, 11.07, 11.08, 11.09, 11.10, 11.11, 11.12, 11.13, 11.14, 11.15, 11.16, 11.17, 11.18, 11.19, 11.20, 11.21, 11.22, 11.23, 11.24, 11.25, 11.26, 11.27, 11.28, 11.29, 11.30, 11.31, 11.32, 11.33, 11.34, 11.35, 11.36, 11.37, 11.38, 11.39, 11.40, 11.41, 11.42, 11.43, 11.44, 11.45, 11.46, 11.47, 11.48, 11.49, 11.50, 11.51, 11.52, 11.53, 11.54, 11.55, 11.56, 11.57, 11.58, 11.59, 12.00, 12.01, 12.02, 12.03, 12.04, 12.05, 12.06, 12.07, 12.08, 12.09, 12.10, 12.11, 12.12, 12.13, 12.14, 12.15, 12.16, 12.17, 12.18, 12.19, 12.20, 12.21, 12.22, 12.23, 12.24, 12.25, 12.26, 12.27, 12.28, 12.29, 12.30, 12.31, 12.32, 12.33, 12.34, 12.35, 12.36, 12.37, 12.38, 12.39, 12.40, 12.41, 12.42, 12.43, 12.44, 12.45, 12.46, 12.47, 12.48, 12.49, 12.50, 12.51, 12.52, 12.53, 12.54, 12.55, 12.56, 12.57, 12.58, 12.59, 13.00, 13.01, 13.02, 13.03, 13.04, 13.05, 13.06, 13.07, 13.08, 13.09, 13.10, 13.11, 13.12, 13.13, 13.14, 13.15, 13.16, 13.17, 13.18, 13.19, 13.20, 13.21, 13.22, 13.23, 13.24, 13.25, 13.26, 13.27, 13.28, 13.29, 13.30, 13.31, 13.32, 13.33, 13.34, 13.35, 13.36, 13.37, 13.38, 13.39, 13.40, 13.41, 13.42, 13.43, 13.44, 13.45, 13.46, 13.47, 13.48, 13.49, 13.50, 13.51, 13.52, 13.53, 13.54, 13.55, 13.56, 13.57, 13.58, 13.59, 14.00, 14.01, 14.02, 14.03, 14.04, 14.05, 14.06, 14.07, 14.08, 14.09, 14.10, 14.11, 14.12, 14.13, 14.14, 14.15, 14.16, 14.17, 14.18, 14.19, 14.20, 14.21, 14.22, 14.23, 14.24, 14.25, 14.26, 14.27, 14.28, 14.29, 14.30, 14.31, 14.32, 14.33, 14.34, 14.35, 14.36, 14.37, 14.38, 14.39, 14.40, 14.41, 14.42, 14.43, 14.44, 14.45, 14.46, 14.47, 14.48, 14.49, 14.50, 14.51, 14.52, 14.53, 14.54, 14.55, 14.56, 14.57, 14.58, 14.59, 15.00, 15.01, 15.02, 15.03, 15.04, 15.05, 15.06, 15.07, 15.08, 15.09, 15.10, 15.11, 15.12, 15.13, 15.14, 15.15, 15.16, 15.17, 15.18, 15.19, 15.20, 15.21, 15.22, 15.23, 15.24, 15.25, 15.26, 15.27, 15.28, 15.29, 15.30, 15.31, 15.32, 15.33, 15.34, 15.35, 15.36, 15.37, 15.38, 15.39, 15.40, 15.41, 15.42, 15.43, 15.44, 15.45, 15.46, 15.47, 15.48, 15.49, 15.50, 15.51, 15.52, 15.53, 15.54, 15.55, 15.56, 15.57, 15.58, 15.59, 16.00, 16.01, 16.02, 16.03, 16.04, 16.05, 16.06, 16.07, 16.08, 16.09, 16.10, 16.11, 16.12, 16.13, 16.14, 16.15, 16.16, 16.17, 16.18, 16.19, 16.20, 16.21, 16.22, 16.23, 16.24, 16.25, 16.26, 16.27, 16.28, 16.29, 16.30, 16.31, 16.32, 16.33, 16.34, 16.35, 16.36, 16.37, 16.38, 16.39, 16.40, 16.41, 16.42, 16.43, 16.44, 16.45, 16.46, 16.47, 16.48, 16.49, 16.50, 16.51, 16.52, 16.53, 16.54, 16.55, 16.56, 16.57, 16.58, 16.59, 17.00, 17.01, 17.02, 17.03, 17.04, 17.05, 17.06, 17.07, 17.08, 17.09, 17.10, 17.11, 17.12, 17.13, 17.14, 17.15, 17.16, 17.17, 17.18, 17.19, 17.20, 17.21, 17.22, 17.23, 17.24, 17.25, 17.26, 17.27, 17.28, 17.29, 17.30, 17.31, 17.32, 17.33, 17.34, 17.35, 17.36, 17.37, 17.38, 17.39, 17.40, 17.41, 17.42, 17.43, 17.44, 17.45, 17.46, 17.47, 17.48, 17.49, 17.50, 17.51, 17.52, 17.53, 17.54, 17.55, 17.56, 17.57, 17.58, 17.59, 18.00, 18.01, 18.02, 18.03, 18.04, 18.05, 18.06, 18.07, 18.08, 18.09, 18.10, 18.11, 18.12, 18.13, 18.14, 18.15, 18.16, 18.17, 18.18, 18.19, 18.20, 18.21, 18.22, 18.23, 18.24, 18.25, 18.26, 18.27, 18.28, 18.29, 18.30, 18.31, 18.32, 18.33, 18.34, 18.35, 18.36, 18.37, 18.38, 18.39, 18.40, 18.41, 18.42, 18.43, 18.44, 18.45, 18.46, 18.47, 18.48, 18.49, 18.50, 18.51, 18.52, 18.53, 18.54, 18.55, 18.56, 18.57, 18.58, 18.59, 19.00, 19.01, 19.02, 19.03, 19.04, 19.05, 19.06, 19.07, 19.08, 19.09, 19.10, 19.11, 19.12, 19.13, 19.14, 19.15, 19.16, 19.17, 19.18, 19.19, 19.20, 19.21, 19.22, 19.23, 19.24, 19.25, 19.26, 19.27, 19.28, 19.29, 19.30, 19.31, 19.32, 19.33, 19.34, 19.35, 19.36, 19.37, 19.38,

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